

## UAE allows entry to foreigners with Israeli visa stamps

DUBAI (AP) — The United Arab Emirates is allowing entry to foreigners who have visited Israel, an immigration official said Tuesday. The Emirates began permitting foreigners with Israeli visa stamps in their passports to enter the country about three months ago following directives from the interior ministry, the official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity. Most Arab countries, including the United Arab Emirates, do not have diplomatic relations with Israel and for years did not allow entry to anyone who had visited the Jewish state. In recent years, Oman and Qatar established low-level trade relations with Israel and began allowing Israelis — as well as foreigners with Israeli visa stamps — to enter. Kuwait allows British, American and French citizens to enter if they have Israeli visas in their passports and evaluates others on a case-by-case basis.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية. الراي

## Regent receives message from Qoureira

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday received a message from Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmad Qoureira expressing appreciation for Jordan's support for the Palestinians. In his message, Qoureira stressed the importance of strengthening the two countries' bilateral relations.

Volume 24 Number 7010

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1998, SHA'BAN 13, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 fils

## Israel approves major expansion of another West Bank settlement

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has authorized the construction of 480 homes in the Jewish settlement of Kochav Ya'acov, more than tripling the size of the West Bank enclave, officials said Tuesday.

The Israeli housing ministry approved the new construction Monday at the same time that the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), issued a call for Palestinians to fight the expansion of Jewish settlements "by all means."

Moshe Friedman, the spokesman for the housing ministry, said 230 of the new housing units were already under construction in Kochav Ya'acov and infrastructure was being prepared for a further 250.

"The units are in a new neighborhood that is within the settlement's outline plan," Friedman told AFP.

While the construction itself is being privately financed, the state is helping fund infrastructure work since the government earlier declared West Bank settlements "national priority" development areas.

Kochav Ya'acov currently has some 230 families and is located east of the Palestinian-ruled city of Ramallah north of Jerusalem.

The Palestinian National Authority charges that continued building in Jewish settlements violates peace accords with Israel, including the Wye River land-for-security deal signed in October and which

prohibits "unilateral actions" that change the status of the occupied territories.

The right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says the prohibition applies only to the creation of new settlements and not the expansion of existing communities which he says is needed to allow for "natural growth."

In Arab east Jerusalem, meanwhile, Israeli contractors bidding on the Har Homa Jewish housing project visited the construction site where left-wing Israelis staged a protest. Police detained three demonstrators from the Peace Now group trying to disrupt the tour.

The Palestinians hope to establish a future capital in east Jerusalem. They say Har Homa is part of an Israeli plan to cut off the Palestinian neighbourhoods in Jerusalem from their hinterland in Bethlehem and the southern West Bank.

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon last month urged settlers to "run, grab as many hill-tops as you can because what is not ours will become theirs."

Sharon is due to lead the Israeli team in the final status negotiations that are due to begin later this week. The talks must determine the final borders and political powers of the Palestinian-ruled areas.

At a special session Monday in Ramallah of the PLC, deputies denounced Sharon's statement as a "declaration of



Two police officers arrest an Israeli peace activist at the controversial Jabal Abu Ghneim construction site in Arab east Jerusalem on Tuesday. Police and soldiers scuffled with Israeli peace activists who were protesting the arrival of contractors to the site (AP photo)

war" and called on the Palestinian public to confront settlement building "by all means."

Under the Wye accord Israel agreed to transfer 13 per cent more of the West Bank to Palestinian control and release Palestinian prisoners in exchange for a harsh crackdown by Palestinian police

against Islamist groups. Israel carried out the first stage of the West Bank transfer late last month but Palestinians this week warned that negotiations on further implementation of the accord are jeopardised by Jewish settlement building and an Israeli decision to release primarily com-

mon criminals and not political detainees.

Meanwhile, a senior Palestinian official appealed to U.S. President Bill Clinton to resolve growing tensions over Israel's refusal to release jailed anti-Israel activists.

(Continued on page 3)

## Cabinet adopts regulation requiring foreign labourers to disclose place of residence

By Caroline Faraj

AMMAN — The government has adopted a regulation that requires all foreign labourers to disclose their places of residence, a senior official said Tuesday.

"The government studied the current problem regarding the illegal foreign labour in the Kingdom, and we decided to adopt a regulation that requires them to specify their exact residence for use in our official records," the official told the Jordan Times.

He said the government will enforce the new regulation under endorsement by a Royal Decree, expected in the coming few days.

The higher ministerial committee for unemployment headed by Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh met yesterday, and listened to a briefing by Labour Minister Mohammad Mahdi Farhan, and Interior Minister Nayef Qadi.

The two ministers briefed the higher committee on the latest procedures adopted by their departments in order to organise the foreign labour force in the Kingdom.

According to Labour Ministry figures, around 108,000 foreigners have rectified their status since the government launched a crackdown two months ago.

During the meeting, the ministers discussed several possible mechanisms to organise foreign labour in the Kingdom.

"We are also discussing the possibility of giving foreign labourers without permits a final grace period to adjust their situation," the senior official added.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Qadi said the measures being implemented by the ministry represent the sovereign right of any state to organise incoming labour force within its territory.

He stressed Jordan's respect for all labour agreements with friendly countries, noting that all agreements to this effect provide for respect of the rules and regulations in force in the Kingdom.

Qadi also said the ministry has no plans to pardon violators of labour regulations, nor to exempt them from payment of any fines.

In a previous interview with the Jordan Times, Farhan said the government would activate Article 12 of the Labour Law, which stipulates that employers who hire foreigners without work permits are liable to fines ranging from JD50 to JD100 for each month the employee works. He called on employers to obtain work permits for their employees or be held accountable.

Unemployment in Jordan is officially estimated at 16 per cent and independently at 27 per cent.

## Barzan Takriti back in Baghdad

AMMAN (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's half-brother Barzan Al Takriti, a former Iraqi ambassador, returned to Iraq on Tuesday, a Jordanian official at the Jordanian-Iraqi border said.

Takriti, who served until recently as ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, left Amman by car early Tuesday and crossed the Karameh border post, 330 kilometres east of the Jordanian capital, into Iraq.

In an interview with a Jordanian newspaper Tuesday, Takriti denied any rift with the Iraqi leader and said he had decided to return immediately to Iraq to refute media speculation that he was planning to defect.

"I have been, still am and will remain part of the Iraqi political regime. How could I have remained an Iraqi ambassador for 11 years if I was at odds with the regime?" he asked Al Arab Al Yawm newspaper.

Takriti, who had been recalled to Baghdad along with 17 other ambassadors as part of a diplomatic reshuffle, had earlier told a Saudi newspaper he wanted to stay in Switzerland for family reasons, sparking rumours of his defection which the Iraqi mission in Geneva firmly denied.

He arrived in Amman Sunday still wearing a black tie out of respect for his late wife Ahlam Khairallah Tulhah who died of cancer in Switzerland last month.

Takriti told Al Arab Al Yawm he intended to ask Saddam not to give him an official post in Baghdad "because my family and myself are suffering a tragedy which would not

enable me to carry out the lowest official duty."

"My children need me now more than ever, but I decided to suppress the need to stay [in Switzerland] with my children and decided to return to Baghdad to put an end to the uproar in the antagonistic press."

Six of his eight children have stayed in Switzerland to continue their studies. Takriti said he had been told by the Swiss authorities that he could return to see them.

Informed Iraqi sources in the region had said previously that Takriti, who took up his post in Geneva in early 1989, had strained relations with Saddam's eldest son, Uday, his former son-in-law, and had not returned to Iraq since 1990 in fear of his life.

Takriti's daughter Saja took refuge with her father in Geneva shortly after her marriage to Uday, alleging he maltreated her. Uday, who later divorced her, reportedly never forgave his father-in-law.

In August 1995, sources from the former U.N. ambassador's entourage said he had defected, following in the footsteps of Saddam's son-in-law, General Hussein Kamel Hassan, who fled to Amman that month, although Takriti himself denied this.

Hussein Kamel, a former minister of military industrialisation, stayed just six months in Amman before returning home to Iraq on Feb. 20, 1996 — a decision which proved suicidal. Takriti, in his interview with Al Arab Al Yawm, also warned the United States of the consequences of "playing with fire" in Iraq.

(Continued on page 12)

## Iraq delivers new food distribution plan to U.N.

Agencies

IRAQ HAS handed its new food distribution plan to the United Nations, despite complaining that the "oil-for-food" accord fails to meet its humanitarian needs, a U.N. spokesman said here Tuesday.

George Somerville, spokesman for the U.N. humanitarian programme, said Iraq delivered the new plan on Saturday at the United Nations.

An additional 1,500 pages of annexes on food, medicine and other supplies were handed over to the offices of the U.N. humanitarian coordinator in Baghdad, Hans von Sponeck.

Somerville told AFP that the annexes were sent on to New York on Monday and would be studied by the Office of the Iraq Programme before being delivered to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan at the end of the week.

The U.N. chief has to approve the distribution plan for the oil-for-food deal's fifth phase, which started last Thursday.

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## PNA denies misuse of European housing funds Aid pledges for Palestinians surpass \$3 billion

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Tuesday disputed a published report alleging it had spent money earmarked for low-income housing on luxury apartments for wealthy Arafat associates.

"I don't see any corruption in housing," Palestinian Housing Minister Abdul Rahman Hamad told reporters in response to a report in the Sunday Times of London.

The report came a day before a conference of international donors in Washington at which

more than 43 nations pledged a total of more than \$3 billion in aid to the Palestinians.

Palestinian officials feared the allegations, coupled with previous findings of corruption, would dampen enthusiasm for providing aid.

At a news conference, the Palestinians housing minister said low-income Palestinians were indeed the chief beneficiaries of subsidised housing in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said 90 per cent of the buyers of 922 European Union (EU)-funded housing units in

Gaza had incomes of less than \$600 a month.

He acknowledged that buyers did include some Arafat associates who returned from exile with the start of Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip. But he said the application process for purchasing the units had been open to all, and that apartment sales were carried out under joint EU supervision.

Hamad also called the newspaper's description of luxury features at some of the EU-funded apartments unfair. He

said the units were built according to simple, basic specifications, and that extras like satellite dishes and custom-styling came at the expense of individual owners.

The report also suggested that the units were unusually spacious, but the housing minister said their size — 90 to 100 square metres — was normal for Palestinian families, which tend to be large.

Of those living in housing built with the EU backing in Gaza, Hamad said 136 were unemployed, 193 worked in

the private sector, 55 were employed by non-governmental organisations, 48 worked for the United Nations, 189 worked for civilian ministries in the PNA and 301 were employed by the Palestinian security forces.

At the donor conference, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said disbursement of American funds would be closely monitored. Hamad said the Palestinians welcomed the scrutiny.

(Continued on page 12)

## SLA militiaman killed

MARIYOUN (AFP) — A militiaman in the Israeli-armed South Lebanon Army (SLA) was killed and another wounded in separate bomb attacks by Hizbollah fighters in southern Lebanon on Tuesday, SLA sources said.

An SLA member was killed while driving on the road from the mainly-Christian area of Jezzine to Roum when Hizbollah guerrillas detonated a bomb by remote control, the sources said.

Another SLA member suffered slight injuries in an explosion which occurred on a road leading from Daher Al Beitah, west of Jezzine in an extension of the self-declared Israeli "security zone," the SLA radio Voice of the South said.

The Iranian- and Syrian-backed Hizbollah, or Party of God, claimed responsibility for the blasts in statements released in Beirut.

Thirty-three members of the SLA have been killed in southern Lebanon this year and 45 wounded, according to an AFP toll.

Most of the casualties have been caused in attacks by Hizbollah, which spearheads a drive to force Israel out of the "zone" it maintains in

southern Lebanon.

In Naqoura, meanwhile, the international committee monitoring the ceasefire in south Lebanon ruled Tuesday that both Israeli forces and Lebanese fighters opposing the Israeli presence have violated a 1996 agreement aimed at protecting civilians.

The committee found legitimate at least seven complaints by Israel that "a Lebanese armed group" had fired mortar rounds and anti-aircraft rockets from civilian areas between Nov. 19 and 26, in violation of the agreement.

The committee was unable to agree on another Israeli complaint.

It acknowledged six complaints by Lebanon that rounds fired by Israel and its allies in the SLA had damaged civilian property. In one incident four civilians were injured. It ruled that these attacks violated the agreement.

The committee "welcomed the reaffirmation by Israel and Lebanon of their commitment to the understanding." It "urged that combatants... desist from operations that directly or indirectly endanger the lives and property of civilians."

## Lebanese president begins new consultations to select premier

BEIRUT (AP) — President Emile Lahoud began a fresh round of consultations with parliament on Tuesday in search of a new premier after incumbent Prime Minister Rafik Hariri bowed out.

Lahoud first met for about 15 minutes with former Prime Minister Salim Hoss, a member of the parliament who is widely expected to be asked by the president to form a new government.

Lahoud then began consulting members of the 128-seat parliament, who under Lebanon's constitution make recommendations on the premier to the president.

Hariri's cabinet has been serving in a caretaker capacity since Lahoud's new president last week.

Lahoud began the latest round of consultations, which are expected to last two days,

after Hariri declined to name a new cabinet following an earlier round of consultations with parliament.

Hariri's move could be a ploy to gain more power as a new government is formed, but the crisis atmosphere generated by his possible departure could affect Lebanon's economic recovery.

(Continued on page 12)

## Turkish premier says Germany or Italy should try Ocalan

Agencies

TURKISH PRIME Minister Mesut Yilmaz on Tuesday said that Italy or Germany should try a Kurdish rebel leader detained in Rome if Turkey's extradition bid fails.

Speaking to members of his centre-right party in parliament, Yilmaz said that if Italy refused to hand over rebel Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan, "the least you can do is to make sure that his crimes to not remain unpunished."

Turkey wants Ocalan extradited, but Italy refused to hand him over since Italian law forbids extradition to countries like Turkey where suspects may face the death penalty.

Ocalan is also wanted in Germany, but German officials, fearing trouble amount its Kurdish and Turkish immigrant population, say they will not seek his extradition.

"You issue a warrant for crimes committed on your territory — but then you shy away from trying him," Yilmaz

added, in a clear reference to Germany. "What kind of a legal state is this?"

Turkey has been angered by a proposal by the prime ministers of Germany and Italy for an international tribunal to try Ocalan, which Ankara accuses of terrorism.

Meanwhile, Ocalan said in an interview published Tuesday that Italy could help find an international solution to the Kurdish conflict.

Ocalan told the Russian newspaper Kommersant that

Italy could "organise an international mediation panel, capable of solving the [Kurdish] conflict with Turkey."

Ocalan said his Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) "had always had close links with the Italian government and opposition." The PKK has mounted a bloody struggle for an independent Kurdish homeland in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

"Not long ago, despite Ankara's protests, Italy authorised a session of the Kurdish

parliament in exile," Ocalan recalled. That "made it easier for us to explain to western Europe the real situation in Kurdistan."

Ocalan said he hoped Italy would not hand him over to

Turkey, which wants to try him treason, and said he believed in Italy because it "gave the highest priority to democratic principles and to the rule of law."

(Continued on page 12)

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## Yilmaz, Ciller ease bitter rivalry in search for coalition

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz and Conservative leader Tansu Ciller have eased their bitter rivalry amid efforts to form a coalition government, newspapers reported on Tuesday.

Turkey has faced the threat of a long-term power vacuum since last week when Yilmaz's secularist coalition collapsed over graft charges.

Personal rivalries among political leaders and a fragmented parliament could delay the setting up of a new government, the sixth administration in three years.

Yilmaz and former Prime Minister Ciller shook hands at the funeral on Monday of

a soldier killed in a Kurdish rebel attack.

It was their warmest meeting since a coalition between them collapsed in acrimony in 1996.

"Meaningful meeting," the Yeni Yuzyl daily said in a banner headline alongside a picture of the two leaders shaking hands.

Any new coalition is likely to be a temporary government to take the country to elections in April, 1998.

The daily Sabah reported that Ciller backed a proposed alliance with Yilmaz and a leftist leader but wanted a fourth coalition partner in the government.

Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit urged Ciller

and Yilmaz at the weekend to unite for a strong government in order to keep Islamists out of office.

Failure by secularist politicians to unite could force President Suleyman Demirel to name an interim government involving the Islam-based Virtue Party, the biggest single group in parliament.

Ciller is the secularist leader closest to Virtue.

A warning from the powerful military on Monday said that politicians should avoid comments that could draw the army into politics made it clear that the generals still look coldly on the Islamists, 18 months after forcing them from office.

## Iran urges refugees to go home

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Interior Minister Abdulvahid Musavi Lari called on Tuesday for the "organised return of all refugees," notably Afghans, to their homes.

"The government wishes to pave the way for the return of all refugees residing in Iran, within the framework of a plan of action," Musavi Lari was quoted by state radio as saying.

He said the presence of these "temporary guests" was an increasingly heavy burden for the country, currently facing recession and high unemployment.

Iran has played host for the past 20 years to around two million refugees, according to generally accepted figures, notably from Iraq and Afghanistan, where the 1980 Soviet invasion and ensuing civil wars have sparked an exodus.

The refugees are living mostly in camps distributed around the provinces, but several hundred thousand others are living and working there illegally.

About a million refugees returned to Afghanistan in 1992 with the help of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), following the fall of the Soviet-backed communist regime in Kabul.

But the operations have ceased since the hardline Sunni Muslim Taliban militia took over most of Afghanistan in 1996.

Many refugees fear persecution or worse if they return, while Shiite Muslim Iran is itself hostile to the extremist militia, which killed nine Iranian nationals in the northern Afghanistan town of Mazar-e-Sharif in August.

Iran formally gave illegal

Afghan refugees a three-week deadline from the end of October to leave the country, but there have been no further announcements since the deadline ran out on Nov. 21.

The Taliban in early November called on the United Nations to prevent the expulsion of refugees from Iran and warned of "tragic" consequences if they returned because there were no resources to rehabilitate them.

Iranian authorities have reinforced security measures on the border with Afghanistan to prevent more refugees from arriving, and to prepare for the repatriation of those already in the country.

Police in Iran's northeastern Khurasan province have also begun over the past few weeks to round up Afghans without valid residence papers.



Polisario Front flags blow in desert winds Tuesday as refugees await the arrival of United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan in a refugee camp in Smara. Annan said after talks with Polisario Front leaders that he had won a 'clear yes' from them on his peace plan to resolve the long-running Western Sahara dispute (Reuters photo)

## Annan meets Algerian officials over West Sahara referendum

ALGIERS (AP) — U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, working to salvage a plan to end the quarter-century-long Western Sahara crisis, was meeting Tuesday with Algerian officials, a day after touring a refugee camp.

Annan was set to meet President Liamine Zeroual. Foreign

Minister Ahmad Attaf and Prime Minister Ahmad Quyahai, among others.

His personal effort to revive stalled plans for a U.N.-sponsored referendum on the fate of the Western Sahara underscored what now appears to be a pressing need to move ahead — or lose the opportunity.

At stake is whether the Italy-sized territory should remain in Morocco's hands or become an independent state.

Polisario Front rebels for decades battled Moroccan troops for the territory's independence.

The referendum had been set for Dec. 7 but has now been moved to December 1999. It has been bogged down over disputes about who has the right to cast a ballot. Morocco insists that some 65,000 people from three tribes should be on the list that now carries some 90,000 names.

The former president went straight from the airport to Camp Doha — a transformed storage and warehouse area which serves as the headquarters of U.S. ground troops deployed in Kuwait.

The United States has military hardware propositioned at Camp Doha and some 1,500 ground troops.

Bush told Kuwait's Al-Sayassah daily in an interview published on Tuesday that Iraq no longer has the military power to invade Kuwait.

## Former President Bush arrives in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's favourite American, former U.S. President George Bush, arrived on Tuesday in the tiny Gulf Arab state that a U.S.-led coalition freed from a seven-month Iraqi occupation in 1991.

Ordinary Kuwaitis and officials hold Bush in high regard for putting together the Gulf war coalition. Residential buildings are named after him and pictures of him can be seen in some offices.

Bush, who is on a regional tour, was received at the airport by Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah. Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah is expected to meet with Bush later on Tuesday.

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## Most archaeological digs in Israel halted over budget dispute

TEL AVIV (AP) — Archaeology, one of Israel's biggest tourist attractions, suffered a blow Tuesday when most of the country's excavations were shut down.

The Israel Antiquities Authority halted its salvage digs after the Supreme Court ruled that developers and

building contractors cannot be billed for the costs of these excavations.

In the country of Jesus and King Solomon, Richard the Lion Heart and Saladin, it is almost impossible to start a building or a road without uncovering ancient remains.

In the archaeological sense

Israel is the one of the most crowded countries in the world, with some 25,000 known sites excavated or still waiting to be dug up.

Ahead of most construction projects, the Antiquities Authority carries out a salvage dig. In response to a petition from a developer, the Supreme

Court ruled Sunday that the government, not the builder, must bear the costs of the salvage digs.

In response, the Antiquities Authority decided Tuesday to halt all salvage digs — which account for about 300 of the 350 excavations carried out in Israel each year.

"We have no budget for salvage digs," said Antiquities Authority spokeswoman Osnat Gouez.

Major digs open to the public like those in Jerusalem, Caesarea and Beit Shean have been drastically curtailed for lack of government funding, Gouez said.

## Iranian naval manoeuvres to test electronic warfare system — official

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran will test an electronic warfare system capable of jamming enemy radar in manoeuvres scheduled for later this week, a military official said Tuesday.

He said that until now, the Iranian navy only had the capability to defend against electronic warfare. But new systems developed internally will give Iranian warships the capability of jamming enemy electronics, the official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

The five-day manoeuvres, code-

named Unity 77, will be launched later this week, perhaps as early as Thursday, with some 50,000 troops participating.

The navy commander, Rear Adm. Ali Akbar Ahmadian, said Monday that Oman will send observers to the war games.

He said the manoeuvres will take place in an area extending from the central Gulf to the Strait of Hormuz and into the Gulf of Oman.

Iran has tried for a decade to conduct joint military exercises with Gulf states, which are allies of the United States.

But so far, no Gulf country has agreed to take part because of Tehran's insistence that U.S. warships should leave the region.

The war games will involve missile-launching units of the Revolutionary Guards and mock "electronic warfare" will be carried out over a wide area," the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

Among the manoeuvres' goals will be to assess Iran's defence against chemical, biological and nuclear attacks, IRNA said.

## 'Greece rejected Israeli manoeuvre offer'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said Tuesday that Greece turned down his invitation to carry out a joint operation in the Mediterranean after Israel and Turkey held similar exercises in the area.

"We invited them to a humanitarian exercise at sea more than a year ago and they refused," Mordechai said, according to his spokesman, Avi Benayahu.

"They were invited once

again to hold such an exercise" during the visit on Tuesday of the Greek air force commander, Lt. Gen. Giorgos Antonetis, to Israel, Benayahu said.

Benayahu did not say how the Greek visitor responded.

Turkey is Greece's traditional rival, and Greece has been watching the growing Israeli-Turkish military alliance with some concern.

Turkey and Greece remain at odds over

Cyprus. They have controlled opposite sides of the island since 1974, when Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third of the island after a failed coup by supporters of union with Greece.

Mordechai said he supported a diplomatic solution to the Cyprus conflict.

The Greek air force commander was to stay in Israel until Thursday night as a guest of the Israeli air force. He was to meet military officials and tour

defence industry facilities, the Israeli army spokesman's office said.

The Greek air force already has several defence contracts with Israel, including the maintenance of F-16 fighter planes.

Mordechai will visit Greece at the end of December as a guest of the Greek Jewish community. He will hold military and policy meetings in Athens and in the northern port city of Salonica.

### JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 4773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 Cartoon — "The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin"  
15:30 Children's Programme — Halfway to Cross the Galaxy and Turn Left  
16:00 "French Documentary  
16:30 "Masters of the Maze  
17:00 "French programme  
18:15 Drama — Wind at My Back  
19:00 "Le Journal  
19:15 "French programme  
19:30 "News headlines  
19:35 "Comedy — 2 Point 4 Children  
20:00 Doc. — Envoyé Special Magazine  
20:30 "Drama — NYPD Blue  
21:15 The Great Moments of Science and Technology  
21:30 "Faces and Places  
22:00 "News in English  
22:30 "Chicago Hope  
23:10 "The Album Show  
23:59 "End of T.X.

### PRAYER TIMES

04:52 .....Fajr  
06:14 .....(Sunrise)Dhuha  
11:25 .....Dhuhr  
14:13 .....Asr  
16:36 .....Maghreb  
17:58 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.

4632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 4624833/4624811  
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751  
Amman International Church Tel. 5865897  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932  
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440  
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138  
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh Tel. 5920146  
The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757  
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190  
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679  
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052  
The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331  
The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Temperatures are expected to

rise slightly with clouds appearing at different altitudes, and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be moderate, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Amman .....07/20  
Aqaba .....13/26  
Deserts .....06/22  
Jordan Valley .....14/27

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 19, Aqaba 24 Humidity readings: Amman 49 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

Following are the temperatures expected today in the following areas:  
Ajloun .....07/15  
Jerash .....13/22  
Um Qays .....10/21  
Madaba .....08/21  
Petra .....05/21  
Dead Sea .....16/29

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sha'ir 4391405  
Dr. Khalid M'addi .....5661144  
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul .....4898140  
Dr. Fakher Bilal .....5522233

AMMAN:  
Firas Pharmacy .....5661912

Al Salam Pharmacy 4636730  
Mayadah Pharmacy .....5537004  
Rukn Al Dawa Pharmacy 5536169

IRBID:  
Dr. Ali Shuqairi .....(02)7100069  
Fou'ad Pharmacy (02)275360

ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Halaseh .....(09)982799  
Palestine Pharmacy .....(09)983562

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....4637111  
Civil Defence Department 5661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....4630341  
Civil Defence Emergency .....199  
Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777  
Fire Brigade .....4617101  
Blood Bank .....4775121  
Highway Police .....5343402  
Traffic office .....4896390  
Public Security Dept. 4630321  
Hotel Complaints .....5605800  
Price Complaints .....5661176  
Water & Sewage Complaints 489467  
Amman Municipality Complaints .....4787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....0132  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....4623101  
Abdali Tel. Repairs .....5661101  
Jordan Television .....4773111  
Radio Jordan .....4774111  
Water Authority .....5680100  
J. Electricity Authority 5815615  
Electric Power Co. ....4636381

RJ Flight Information 44-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 44-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....5921199  
The Islamic, Abdi .....5661317  
Husseini Medical Centre .....5856856  
Luzmila .....4630195  
Khalidi Maternity .....4642816  
Akilah Maternity .....4643441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity .....4642362  
Malhas, J. Amman .....4636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani .....5607071  
Shmeisani Hospital .....5607431  
Jordan Hospital .....5607550  
University Hospital .....5353444  
Al-Musasher Hospital 5667227/9  
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....5664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajirin 4777101/3  
Al-Bashir .....4775111/26  
Army, Marka .....4891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital .....5157100  
Amal Hospital .....5607155  
Al Annal Cancer Centre .....5353000

### ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital .....(09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital .....(09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital .....(09)986731  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital .....(09)990990

### IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital .....(02)275555  
Roman Catholic Hospital .....(02)272275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital .....(02)7101372, (02)7103101  
Rosary Sisters' Hospital .....(02)7102831, (02)7102011  
Speciality Hospital .....(02)7103100

### AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)2014111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 4453200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 44 (52700). Information on Royal Wings flights can be supplied on phone 4875301-5

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:30 .....Damascus (RJ)  
08:35 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
08:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
09:55 .....Larnaca (RJ)  
15:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
15:50 .....Madrid (RJ)  
16:25 .....London (RJ)  
17:55 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
18:20 .....Brussels, Berlin (RJ)  
18:45 .....Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)  
19:05 .....Paris, Istanbul (RJ)

20:00 .....Rome (RJ)  
23:10 .....Beirut (RJ)  
23:59 .....Cairo (RJ)

### Other Flights

09:30 .....Cairo (MS)  
10:30 .....Jeddah (SV)  
12:20 .....Kuwait (KU)  
13:10 .....Tunis (TU)  
13:20 .....Bahrain (GF)  
14:05 .....Rome (AZ)  
15:05 .....Vienna (OS)  
15:30 .....Algiers (AH)  
18:05 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)  
18:40 .....Beirut (ME)  
19:15 .....Frankfurt (LH)  
00:55 London, Damascus (BA)  
01:25 .....Athens (OA)  
02:00 .....Rome (AZ)

### Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:30 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA) (RW)  
10:10 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)  
16:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)  
18:30 Haifa (arriving at QAIA) (RW)  
18:45 Tel Aviv (arriving at QAIA) (RW)  
22:50 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)

### DEPARTURES

06:50 .....Larnaca (RJ)  
08:25 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
10:00 .....Istanbul, Rome (RJ)  
12:15 .....London (RJ)

16:30 .....Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)  
19:30 .....Colombo (RJ)  
19:35 .....Beirut (RJ)

20:00 Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)  
20:15 .....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
20:25 .....Cairo (RJ)  
20:30 .....Bombay (RJ)  
20:35 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
21:00 .....Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
21:15 .....Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
22:45 .....Sanaa (RJ)

### Other Flights

06:30 .....Larnaca (CY)  
07:25 Damascus, London (BA)  
07:25 .....Paris (AF)  
10:30 .....Cairo (MS)  
12:00 .....Medina, Jeddah (SV)  
13:20 .....Kuwait (KU)  
14:10 .....Bahrain (GF)  
14:10 .....Tunis (TU)  
15:30 .....Vienna (OS)  
15:30 .....Rome (AZ)  
16:20 .....Sharjah (AH)  
19:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)  
00:35 .....Amsterdam (KL)  
02:45 .....Athens (OA)

### Royal Wings (RW) Flights

07:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)  
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)  
16:00 Haifa (arriving at QAIA) (RW)  
16:30 Tel Aviv (from Marka Airport) (RW)  
20:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)





**TARAWNEH MEETS WITH NEW HOUSE SPEAKER:** Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh on Tuesday meets with new Lower House Speaker Abdul Hadi Majali to review means of enhancing cooperation between the executive and legislative branches of government. Tarawneh congratulated Majali on his election to his post (Petra photo)

## RJ crew save ill passenger's life

By Ziyad Al Shilleh

AMMAN — A 36-year-old Jordanian owes his life to the staff of Royal Jordanian for their prompt action during an RJ flight from Chicago to Amman.

RJ Vice President for Commercial Affairs Majdi Sabri told the Arabic daily Al Ra'i that the man became ill five hours and 20 minutes into Flight 264 from Chicago. Sabri said the man felt dizzy and started sweating, and after the RJ crew

provided him with first aid, the captain made an emergency landing at Dublin airport in Ireland, where the man was sent to hospital.

According to Sabri, in such emergency situations RJ crew are instructed to land at the nearest airport to provide essential medical services.

The ill man was accompanied to hospital by a crew member, who stayed with him until his condition stabilised following emergency treatment at the intensive care unit, he

said, adding that the RJ plane resumed its flight to Amman via Amsterdam, arriving about three and a half hours late.

Sabri said that Mustafa Naasan, director of RJ's office in London, who has been following up on the ill man's case, has reported that the man had a series of tests and that doctors decided to keep him under surveillance for two to three more days before allowing him to return to Amman.

According to Sabri, RJ has contacted the man's

family in Amman to reassure them about his condition. He added that the airline will secure his trip to Amman once his health allows him to travel again.

RJ planes are equipped with first aid kits that can be used by a doctor on board, Sabri said, noting that RJ planes will soon be supplied with "heart-beat" devices that beam signals to a land-based medical centre which in turn relays instructions for any necessary in-flight treatment.

## U.N., Health Ministry to launch AIDS awareness campaign among youth

AMMAN (J.T.) — In an effort to curb HIV infection among Jordan's youth, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), in cooperation with the Health Ministry's National AIDS Programme, will launch a project to educate the younger population on the prevention and transmission of the deadly virus, a U.N. statement said yesterday.

With a \$82,500 grant from UNAIDS headquarters in Geneva, the NAP will conduct a nationwide awareness campaign targeting youth who have dropped out of schools, unskilled workers and other young population groups such as tour guides and workers in the tourism industry. The project will focus on urban centres such as Amman, Zarqa and Irbid as well as popular tourist destinations such as Aqaba, Madaba, Jerash and Wadi Musa, the statement said.

The latest Health Ministry figures show that since 1986,

when the first case was detected, the total number of Jordanians and foreigners in the country who contracted HIV/AIDS stands at 194, of whom 45 have died. The fact that 30 per cent of these cases occurred in the 15-29 age group has been cause for concern in a country where nearly 1.5 million people — or one-third of the population — are between the ages of 15 and 29. Moreover, the fact that heterosexual contact is the single most highest mode of HIV/AIDS transmission has prompted local health authorities to underscore the need for educating high-risk groups.

According to health experts, several social factors make youth in Jordan particularly vulnerable to contracting HIV/AIDS. In a conservative culture where open discussion of sexual behaviour is considered taboo, youth lack access to reliable information and guidance about such matters, both in and out of school. A 1994 survey conducted by the

NAP revealed that less than 50 per cent of individuals who engaged in high-risk sexual behaviour used condoms for protection against sexually transmitted diseases.

Economic hardships in Jordan have also taken their toll on youth. More and more young Jordanians are having to delay their age of marriage, leading to increased sexual contacts outside of marriage. High unemployment has left them spending spare time in cafes and amusement centres or forcing them to work as unskilled labourers, and in turn exposing them to potential pressure for risky sexual behaviour.

The UNAIDS initiative will assist the NAP in expanding its prevention strategy for susceptible groups by increasing awareness of the risks attached to heterosexual activity and how they can protect themselves against such risks. The strategy includes a situational analysis to determine awareness levels and behav-

iour patterns among the young population, after which the NAP will counsel them on HIV/AIDS prevention and transmission.

The NAP plans to join forces with the large network of community-based groups in Jordan for HIV prevention among youth. The project will also provide peer support by engaging the youth themselves in raising awareness in their communities about protective behaviour using a culturally sensitive approach, the statement added.

UNAIDS and its partners have chosen to focus the 1998 World AIDS campaign on young people because over 50 per cent of new HIV infections around the world are occurring in young people between the ages of 10 and 24. According to UNAIDS statistics, 7,000 young people in this age group are infected with HIV everyday. Today, more than 30 million people are living with HIV or AIDS, according to the statement.

## Awqaf Ministry urges people to join mass prayer for rain

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs urged Jordanians to pray Thursday for rainfall to help boost reserves in the water-parched Kingdom and calm farmers worried about their crops.

"The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs calls on Jordanians from all walks of life and on men, women and children to take part in a mass prayer for rainfall that will be held right before Thursday's afternoon prayer across the Kingdom," it said in a circular issued on Tuesday.

The ministry said it would provide free inter-city trans-

port to mosques from nearby designated areas as part of efforts to ensure a large turnout.

However, Haitham Sha'er, head of the Meteorological Department, dismissed widespread concern, saying that Jordan was only slightly ahead the average point of the year when rain begins to fall.

Sha'er told the Jordan Times that farmers would start feeling the squeeze if rain does not begin falling from Dec. 15-20. "So far, their agricultural produce is on the safe side," he said.

Most farmers, especially in eastern and southern semi-arid

areas, rely heavily on rainfall to water their produce. Those in the Jordan Valley, the country's main food basket, rely on a network of water coming from the King Talal Dam and other projects.

Sha'er dismissed the popular belief that a delay in rainfall meant abundant rain in the near future.

"This is not correct, as rain normally falls in January and February,"

He said he expected rainfall within the next two weeks, as a cold front accompanied by rain that has hit Western Europe was slowly moving towards the Middle East.

## Hourani, U.S. agriculture secretary hold talks on trade

WASHINGTON (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Mohammad Saleh Hourani met in Washington with U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman to review American-Jordanian trade and prospects for the U.S. to supply Jordan with wheat.

Hourani also voiced Jordan's appreciation for a U.S. grant of 100,000 tonnes of wheat worth \$15 million to the Kingdom.

The minister noted that the U.S. government is expected to announce another wheat grant soon.

According to Hourani, the U.S. government has approved a \$60 million soft loan to the Kingdom to buy American wheat.

Hourani, who said he extended an invitation to Glickman to visit Jordan, added that he met with the members of an American wheat board and discussed plans for importing wheat into Jordan and the prospect of training Jordanians in the U.S. in areas connected with cereal and wheat production.

Hourani is currently in the U.S. holding negotiations with American government officials on economic and trade assistance to Jordan.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Queen honoured by foundation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Voice of Islam Foundation and its members have selected Her Majesty Queen Noor as "The Favourite Woman of the Year, 1419 A.H.-1998 A.D.," a Royal Court statement said. The Queen was honoured for her "many donations and concerns to serve humanitarian issues worldwide" and for her "dedication to His Majesty King Hussein Bin Talal, as your husband and one of the best Muslim leaders, and your support for our Muslim brothers and sisters in Jordan."

### Princess Aisha opens workshop

RAMTHA (Petra) — HRH Princess Aisha on Tuesday opened a one-week specialised workshop on self-examination for breast cancer, organised by the Jordan University for Science and Technology in cooperation with the Armed Forces' women soldiers affairs department and the Royal Medical Services. Addressing the opening session, HRH Princess Basma Bint Ali said the workshop is one in a series of five to be conducted throughout the country to promote awareness about early diagnosis of breast cancer and inform women of its symptoms and treatment. Attending the opening ceremony were the president of the university, Sa'd Hijazi, and the director of the Royal Medical Services, Major General Yousef Qusous.

### Mansar opens children's festival

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, Minister of Social Development Mohammad Khair Mansar on Tuesday opened the First National Festival for Children at the Palace of Culture. The festival included a ceremony to honour high school students and talented children, an exhibition of paintings and handmade crafts by children being cared for at social and voluntary organisations throughout the country and other activities. The event, one of many marking His Majesty King Hussein's 63rd birthday, was attended by senior ministry officials and parents.

### what's going on

**CONCERT**  
Classical musical performance by "The Baghdad Group" at Darat Al Fuman, Jabel Weibdeh on Thursday Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

**FILMS**  
Spanish film "La Revoltosa" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabel Amman on Thursday Dec. 3 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting and dialogue with Tunisian-based Algerian artist Rashid Azzouzi at Darat Al Fuman, Jabel Weibdeh on Thursday Dec. 3 at 5:00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS CHARITY BAZAAR**  
Annual Christmas charity bazaar, sponsored by the American Women of Amman, at the Marriott Hotel on Friday Dec. 4, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Tel. 559634).

**THE EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL**  
Austrian film "Tafelberg" at 8:00 p.m. (the film will also be screened on Thursday Dec. 3 at 5:00 p.m.)

Two Belgian films "Een Griekse Tragedie" and "Rosas Dans Rosas" on Thursday Dec. 3 at 8:00 p.m. (both films will also be screened on Friday Dec. 4 at 5:00 p.m.)

The films, subtitled in English, are shown at the Royal Cultural Centre.

**EXHIBITIONS**  
Photography exhibition "Empreintes" (a photography trip from Morocco to Turkey) at the French Cultural Centre, Jabel Amman, until Dec. 17.

Works of 17 British artists and painters from the Nineteenth Century at the British Council, Jabel Amman, until Dec. 10.

Oil paintings by Ali Najjar at Instituto Cervantes, Jabel Amman, until Dec. 14.

The Tenth Anniversary Exhibition of Contemporary Arab Artists at Darat Al Fuman, Jabel Weibdeh (Tel. 4643251/2, until Jan. 28).

## Family gives unwelcome snake scalding send-off

AMMAN (J.T.) — A one-metre-long snake terrorised a household in Jabel Weibdeh for two nights before it was killed with boiling oil and later devoured by a cat.

A report carried by the Arabic daily Al Ra'i on Tuesday said that Riyad Abdul Hadi learnt from his sister Sunday evening that something had been seen moving in the house.

Thinking that it was a rat, Abdul Hadi placed a trap to catch the rodent, but by the second night no rat had been caught. Abdul Hadi's sister alerted the whole household that she saw a snake in the guest room, and when Abdul Hadi's mother threw a

shoe at the snake, it moved away and hid in the kitchen.

Um Riyad called on her neighbours to help deal with the unwanted visitor, which had hidden behind the oven.

Abdul Hadi also called the police, who came with shovels and clubs, but their three-hour attempt to capture the snake failed. Riyad then poured boiling oil behind the stove and killed the snake.

Members of the family were afraid to venture into the house until a policeman came out with the dead snake which he threw on to the street, where the cat was lying in wait for the unexpected banquet.

## Training project on children's development concludes

By Susan Resheq

AMMAN — One hundred Jordanians have completed a UNICEF-supervised project that focused on maternal and health care as well as social development under a global effort to provide better services for children.

The "Better Parenting Project," launched in 1997, involves the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, the General Union of Voluntary Societies and the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development and the ministries of health, social development and culture.

"It is a great pleasure to witness yet another achievement for Jordan in the area of providing a healthy environment for its children through a collaborative effort and partnership," UNICEF Regional Director Ibrahim Fall told a ceremony held for the graduates on Monday.

The project, which targets parents with children up to

three years of age, aims at arming families and caregivers with needed knowledge, information and skills to help them provide a healthy, stimulating and loving environment for children through community-based approaches, Fall added.

In his remarks at the ceremony, Minister of Social Development Mohammad Khair Mansar stressed the responsibilities of parents in the "good" upbringing of their children at an early stage in their lives.

Fall said the project "also reflects the National Early Childhood Development goal as stated in the National Plan of Action."

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme covers several matters, including developing the family as a primary caregiver for children and ensuring the right of every child to a healthy, non-discriminative and positive family environment.

It also tries to give children the right to have a life free of

violence, Fall explained.

Through training the 100 people, the Better Parenting Project was able to reach over 1,000 caregivers across the Kingdom through 40 maternal and health care centres as well as kindergartens and other community institutes run by the Ministry of Social Development.

The project disseminates information, education, communication and training materials on the emotional, psychological, intellectual and physical development of children to help empower parents and other caregivers.

UNICEF has developed four video films and seven guide handbooks for parents and facilitators showing the positive development of children under the project. UNICEF has donated \$200,000 to support the scheme.

Fall said UNICEF plans to expand the project in the future to cover other age groups and to reach a greater number of beneficiaries.

## Duo delivers 'superb' performance at concert to commemorate Gershwin

By Jean-Claude Elias

AMMAN — The American duo Kathryn Magestro and John Ferguson delivered a superb performance on Monday at a concert in Amman to commemorate the centennial of composer George Gershwin.

Soprano Magestro and pianist Ferguson delighted the audience with a brilliant interpretation of some of the master's finest music. The programme of the concert, entitled "Crazy About George," was chosen with taste and intelligence, for in addition to well-known numbers like "Swanee," "Summertime" and

"The Man I Love," Magestro and Ferguson also sang and played some of the composer's lesser known pieces.

The stage presence of Magestro, a seasoned opera per-

### REVIEW

former, and the virtuosity of Ferguson won the heart of the audience from the very first song, "Swanee." The artists introduced each number with a brief, very informative explanation. The finesse of the lyrics — often written by Gershwin's brother Ira — the unmistakable rhythm and the truly unique performance con-

tributed to creating a most enjoyable listening experience.

Magestro and Ferguson succeeded in conveying the blend that characterises Gershwin's music of the early twentieth century. Rarely have elements of classical, jazz, rag and African music been so well integrated. Particularly interesting was Ferguson's interpretation of Rhapsody in Blue on piano. The concert ended with Kathryn Magestro singing the famous "I Got Rhythm."

The event was presented by the American Center in cooperation with the National Music Conservatory of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

## Israel approves major expansion of another West Bank settlement

(Continued from page 1)

Netanyahu said he could not release prisoners who had been involved in attacks on Israelis. "I will not back down on this," he vowed.

The issue, which has prompted clashes between stone-throwing Palestinian youths and Israeli soldiers, is raising concern about an outbreak of violence in advance of Clinton's Dec. 12-15 visit to Israel and the Palestinian-ruled lands.

The Israeli daily Haaretz reported that Israeli security officials had urged Netanyahu to agree to free more Palestinian activists in order to prevent rioting.

Palestinians claim that Israel promised at the Wye River summit last month to free 750 prisoners from political factions such as Yasser Arafat's Fatah group. Israel released 250 prisoners last month, but most were car thieves and petty crooks.

"This deception is creating demonstrations, anger and frustration in the Palestinian

community," Ahmad Tibi, an adviser to Arafat, told a Foreign Press Association news conference.

Demonstrations have been held almost daily in support of Palestinian prisoners, with some of the anger turned on Arafat and his government.

On Tuesday, protests were held in the West Bank town of Ramallah where several hundred demonstrators gathered and in the Gaza Strip, where about 150 children called for the release of their fathers.

"How can we live without our fathers?" said Fidda Washah, 16, who addressed the rally. Her father, Jabar, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine faction, has served 14 years of a life sentence for attacking Israeli soldiers.

Netanyahu said he would not release anyone "with blood on their hands" or members of the Islamic militant group Hamas.

"The Palestinians are claiming, falsely, that I suggested somehow to free murderers at Wye," Netanyahu told

reporters.

Israeli officials say only about 110 of the 2,500 Palestinian activists behind bars could be let go in the next release, scheduled to take place just after Clinton's visit.

Tibi, who was spokesman for the Palestinian delegation at Wye Mills, said only about 300 of the Palestinians currently in jail had been involved in attacks that killed Israelis. The rest he described as "political prisoners."

He said about 1,250 prisoners who were members of various Palestine Liberation Organisation factions and the remainder belonged to Hamas. "We would very much like him (Clinton) to interfere in the issue of Palestinian prisoners," said Tibi.

David Bar-Ilan, a senior adviser to Netanyahu, said Israel would not agree to loosen the definition and free Palestinians involved in attacks that only injured Israelis. "Settlement activity should be resisted," said Tibi. "Settlers are public enemy number one to Palestinians."



## Schroeder, Jospin agree to boost social issues on European agenda

POTSDAM, Germany (AFP)

German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin agreed Tuesday to give "fresh impetus" to European social affairs issues, but few concrete proposals were expected at the close of their two-day summit.

Schroeder and Jospin committed themselves to reviving social issues, such as fighting unemployment, on the second and final day of a Franco-German summit in Potsdam, near Berlin.

The pair agreed to a "European pact for unemployment," consisting of "constraining and verifiable objectives," in a bid to give added strength to a section in the European Union's Amsterdam Treaty on job creation.

A joint declaration also focused on the organisation of the work week, life-long job training, salary increases and salary protection.

Schroeder and Jospin, whose meeting comes just one month before the launch of the euro currency, also discussed the international

financial crisis and ways to resolve it.

They proposed bolstering the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by a de facto "council of finance ministers," and called for increased monitoring of the global financial system, in particular regarding tax havens and speculative funds.

"The legitimacy of international institutions, especially the IMF and the World Bank, must be strengthened," the two said in the declaration.

The pair also discussed the thorny issue of the European Union's Agenda 2000, a blueprint for financial reform ahead of the bloc's expansion to the east.

They agreed to see the issue resolved during Germany's six-month presidency of the EU, which begins on Jan. 1.

However, while Paris expressed "great comprehension" for Bonn's efforts to reduce its net contribution to the EU — the highest of the member states — it remains opposed to a German proposal to dissociate the EU's Common Agriculture Policy from Agenda 2000.

Jospin also stressed his desire to see a December 1997 joint declaration between Bonn, London and Paris on the creation of a European aeronautics cooperation respected, as a possible merger between Germany's DASA and British Aerospace (BAe) develops and risks leaving France's Aerospatiale by the wayside.

But Schroeder has assured French President Jacques Chirac, with whom he met in Potsdam Monday, that the DASA-BAe merger would only be one step towards a European cooperation, according to sources in the German delegation.

Defence and security officials from both countries also held talks on the sidelines of the Jospin-Schroeder talks.

France and Germany regularly hold meetings at heads-of-government level, and always before summits of the European Union, when they seek to find a common ground on big issues.

The next EU summit takes place in Vienna, under Austrian presidency, on Dec. 11-12.



German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder smiles as he stands behind French President Jacques Chirac before a news conference at the end of German-French consultations in Potsdam. The leaders met for the first German-French consultations since Schröder was elected as chancellor in September (Reuters photo)

## Kremlin says Yeltsin in working mood

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is in hospital with pneumonia, is feeling better and is "working on documents," chief Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Yakushkin said Tuesday.

"The president feels satisfactory. He is in a working mood," Yakushkin told Reuters, adding that doctors had allowed unspecified changes in the 67-year-old president's daily medical regime, making it "less rigid."

"There has been no fever for many days. The meetings he has had Saturday and Monday demonstrate his intensive working schedule and his mood."

Yeltsin's deputy chief-of-staff, Oleg Syusuev, was quoted as saying the president might "leave the hospital soon" but neither he or Yakushkin specified exactly when.

"Doctors can hardly

restrain the president from leaving the hospital," Syusuev told RIA news agency.

Yakushkin said the Kremlin preferred not to disclose Yeltsin's comeback date for now to avoid "unnecessary anticipation," but added that the treatment course normally lasted up to 10 days.

Yeltsin made a brief television appearance Monday, the first for a week, when he was shown in a short, silent clip speaking with his chief of staff, apparently at Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital where he has been since Nov. 22.

He has already received several official visitors at the hospital, including Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Yeltsin has a long history of health problems, and the Kremlin admitted last week he had several heart attacks during his reelection campaign in 1996.

## South African minister seeks amnesty from truth commission

DURBAN, South Africa (AFP)

South African Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe Tuesday became the first cabinet member to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), applying for amnesty for gun-running.

Radebe, 45, told the commission's amnesty committee in this Indian Ocean city that he had organised the supply of arms to the African National Congress (ANC) in KwaZulu-Natal province between 1990 and 1994.

Radebe said the arms were given to ANC self-defence units to protect ANC-supporting communities from politically-motivated attacks in the run up to the first all-race elections

in April 1994, the SAPA news agency reported.

Before the vote, the province was dogged by political killings, fuelled by rivalry between the ANC and the Zulu-nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and attempts by shadowy groups to derail the vote.

Up to 20,000 people were killed in a decade-long low-level civil war in the province.

Radebe, then chairman of the ANC in southern part of the Natal province, told the committee that he did not know how many weapons he had given to ANC branches, but that 90 per cent of them were recovered after the 1994 elections, won by the ANC.

He admitted that some of the self-defence units had taken part in crime.

Radebe could not say where the weapons had come from, as they had followed a complex trail starting from outside the country, "but come they did," he said.

In his amnesty application, Radebe said he was an underground commander for the ANC's military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) and had smuggled the weapons under the orders of MK's military intelligence.

He is also applying for amnesty for his activities as an MK operative between 1976 and 1990.

In 1986, Radebe was arrested and sentenced to

10 years imprisonment under the Terrorism Act, reduced to six years on appeal, which he served on Robben Island. He was released in 1990.

The TRC, set up to investigate apartheid-era crimes, is reconsidering amnesty applications by 37 other prominent ANC leaders, including Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and three other government ministers or deputy ministers.

They were granted a blanket pardon in November last year, without appearing before the amnesty committee, but the decision was reversed by the Cape High Court in April, after the TRC itself applied for the amnesties to be declared illegal.

## Chile minister pushes Spain to drop Pinochet case

MADRID (R) — Chile's Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza Tuesday

began a second day of talks to convince Spanish officials to stop efforts to extradite former dictator Augusto Pinochet on genocide charges.

Insulza, who began an intense campaign last week to lobby the British and Spanish governments to send the 83-year-old general home instead of to Spain, met early Tuesday with justice officials and the president of the senate.

Insulza Monday said Pinochet — who is under police guard in London while awaiting a decision whether Britain will go ahead with extradition efforts — would not receive a fair trial in Spain, where he is wanted on charges of genocide, terrorism and torture.

Pinochet was arrested on Oct. 16 following a request by Spain for his extradition. A Spanish judge has blamed Pinochet for the deaths or disappearance of more than 3,000 people during his 1973-1990 iron-fisted rule of Chile.

The United States Monday publicly waded into the controversy over whether Pinochet should be tried in Spain, saying Chile's opposition to the idea deserved great respect.

"We believe that if, as in Chile, the citizens of a democratic state are wrestling with the demands of justice with the requirements of reconciliation, significant respect should be given to their conclusions," U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin said Monday.

His comments echoed those made by Insulza Monday. The Chilean minister — who wants Pinochet to face trial at home — told reporters that the international community needed to respect Chile's justice system and noted that the country has been run by a democratic government for eight years.

Rubin's remarks were the fullest U.S. comments since Britain's high court ruled last Wednesday that Pinochet was not immune from prosecution on charges stemming from his 17 years in power.

Rubin also said the United States was "not pushing the British government one way or another."

After meeting Insulza in London Monday, British Defence Secretary George Robertson gave Chile scant cause to hope that Pinochet

might be released soon, saying ministers could not intervene in the case.

Spanish officials, who are said to be secretly hoping that Britain will block Pinochet's extradition to Madrid and thus avoid a potentially embarrassing diplomatic scenario, have also said they will let justice run its course.

Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, who is due to meet Insulza later Tuesday, this week repeated that the Spanish government would not interfere in court decisions.

"This is a judicial matter, not a political one, and we will abide by the decisions of the Spanish judiciary," Aznar said Monday.

Insulza will also meet his counterpart Abel Mantecada and Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja.

## Basque parties ask Carter Centre to mediate

MADRID (R) — Six Basque politicians have

approached the Carter Centre in the United States to discuss how to find a peaceful solution to the Basque conflict, Spanish newspapers reported Tuesday.

Representatives of three Basque nationalist parties have been in Atlanta talking to Carter Centre members for nearly a week, they reported, citing Basque news agency Vasco Press.

El Mundo newspaper said the politicians wanted to see if the Carter Centre could help mediate.

The 1986 opening of the Carter Centre, a privately-financed \$25 million Atlanta-based policy institute and presidential library, gave former U.S. president

Jimmy Carter a new base for a role in foreign affairs.

El Pais said the politicians were there to explain the situation in the Basque Country, after the September ceasefire by the separatist guerrilla group ETA.

ETA declared a ceasefire in mid-September, suspending a 30-year campaign of shootings and bombings.

The government recently said it would begin contacts with ETA allies to see if the separatists were serious about ending their violent campaign for independence in the Spanish and French Basque regions.

The Madrid government and several Basque politicians have said they do not need any foreign mediators to help push along the peace process.

## Filmmakers rescued from Russian Arctic

MOSCOW (R) — Three international film makers trapped since mid-October on a snowbound island in the remote east Russian Arctic were rescued by helicopter Tuesday and were in good health.

"Everybody is healthy and in good humour," Nikita Ovsyannikov, a Russian wildlife expert on the team, told Reuters by telephone from the town of Pevek on the Russian mainland about 350 km north of the Arctic Circle.

"We were in a warm cabin with enough fuel, quite safe and everybody was healthy. The only real problem was that we were running out of food," he said.

Reuters spoke to two team members and they said the third member, Australian cameraman Rory McGuinness, was also in good shape after being rescued from their hut at Cape Blossom on Wrangel Island.

The film makers, who had been filming polar bears and Arctic

scenes on the remote island, had been waiting in their isolated cabin since mid-October for a helicopter to ferry them out. Poor weather had prevented a rescue until Tuesday.

Temperatures on the island had fallen as winter set in and food supplies had been running low.

"Basically our health is good but we are thinner," Tatsuhiro Kobayashi, a Japanese television producer, said. "I lost eight kilos and now weigh 65 or 68 kilos."

"Of course I am very glad," said Kobayashi, who went to the Arctic island in late September. "It was very cold... and we had packed just a few clothes for autumn." The temperature outside was about minus 20 Celsius but the wind chill factor made it feel much colder.

They planned to travel to Moscow where the temperature was about the same, but with less wind, later Tuesday or early Wednesday.

The three men had lived in an isolated cabin about 120 km from the nearest settlement. Ovsyannikov said residents of the settle-

ment had been forced to abandon an attempt to reach the men by snowmobile because of the weather.

"We were working as long as there was film stock left, which was mid-November," Ovsyannikov said. "In the last few weeks we were just waiting."

The Russian rescue helicopter had been ready for weeks to fly from Cape Schmidt on the mainland to evacuate the three men but fierce winds and snow had kept it grounded.

The three had remained in radio contact with local villagers and could telephone the mainland through a satellite phone.

They developed a daily routine inside their two-room cabin as they waited for a break in the weather.

"I was cooking for the guys and they were washing dishes and supplying water from snow," said Ovsyannikov, who had been on the island since July.

He said the remaining supplies were rice, some grain called grechka, beans, sugar and tea. Meat had run out a week before.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### U.N. agency launches campaign to protect field workers

ROME (AP) — A U.N. food agency said Tuesday that violence against aid workers is growing at an alarming rate and that it planned to train its staff on how to handle potentially dangerous situations. The Rome-based World Food Programme said 45 of its staffers had been murdered or died from work-related accidents or illnesses in the past decade. Nine field workers were murdered in 1998 alone, with the latest slaying Nov. 14, when a staffer on duty at a warehouse in Kuito, Angola, was shot to death. While previously only the staffers heading to the most dangerous areas underwent training, WFP has now hired experts to teach all of its 4,000 staff members emergency procedures including the use of satellite phones to relay distress calls and escape and evacuation methods. "All our people need to know how to react to emergency situations," said WFP spokesman Jeffrey Rowland. "Some of the areas we did not consider dangerous have been transformed into high risk areas." Rowland said that the agency had started setting aside funds to cover security needs for each operation. He said the funds would be used for everything from de-mining to boosting the number of military personnel escorting convoys, depending on the risks of each project. The agency has appealed to governments of host countries to help ensure the safety of its staff. "Host countries must agree that safety and security is a nonnegotiable issue and that WFP will suspend operations in a country if its personnel is placed in extreme danger," said Arnold Vercken, head of the WFP's security task force. WFP also said it aimed to increase cooperation with other U.N. agencies to develop a worldwide U.N. security policy.

### Colombian official surprised at huge U.S. anti-drug aid

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Colombian Defence Minister Rodrigo Lloreda told a leading U.S. daily that he was surprised when the U.S. Congress approved \$289 million in drug-fighting money for his country. "It was a decision that surprised everybody," Lloreda said in an interview published Tuesday in The New York Times. The U.S. funds for Colombia, included in the \$500 billion budget for fiscal 1999 passed by Congress and signed by President Bill Clinton on Oct. 21, represent a tenfold increase in anti-drug funding since 1993. Lloreda said the United States had previously supported Colombia's drug-fighting efforts, "but they kept a certain balance between Colombia, Peru and other countries." The \$289 million for Colombia, part of a \$690 million anti-drug package for Latin America, is mostly earmarked for weapons, helicopters and surveillance planes, the daily said. Some critics fear the Clinton administration will find it difficult to restrict the aid to attacking the drug trade at its source and will be lured into supporting Colombia's protracted struggle against leftist guerrillas. "It's another step in the wrong direction," said Adam Isaacson, of the Centre for International Policy, a Washington-based research institute. "I would call it a danger. There is an overlap to worry about." Administration officials argued that the aid would strengthen Colombian President Andres Pastrana's position as he embarks on peace negotiations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the country's largest and oldest guerrilla group. "You can't negotiate unless you have strength," Lloreda told the daily. "We would all like peace to come spontaneously out of good will, but it doesn't always work that way."

### Anwar's lawyers prepared to go to jail

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Ousted Deputy Premier Anwar Ibrahim's defence team are all prepared to go to jail if necessary after one lawyer was given a three-month sentence for contempt, a source close to the team said Tuesday. The presiding judge in the high-profile case sentenced Zainur Zakaria Monday after he refused to apologise for allegations that prosecutors tried to fabricate evidence against Anwar. "They are all prepared to go to jail if the need arises," said the source, who asked not to be named. "When they filed the affidavit, they knew the dangers and risks involved. This is one of the hazards of being a lawyer. Anything done is as a team affair," the source told AFP. "The team spirit remains strong." The allegations against the prosecution were contained in an affidavit Zainur filed Saturday on behalf of the ousted deputy premier. Justice Augustine Paul also issued a warrant for the arrest of a second lawyer working closely with the nine-member defence team, Manjeet Singh Dillon. Zainur Monday managed to win a last-minute reprieve from the court of appeal, which granted an interim stay against the three-month sentence pending a hearing Friday, while Manjeet appeared to be still at large Tuesday.

### No go areas for released paedophiles become law in Britain

LONDON (AFP) — Orders banning paedophiles from entering areas such as public parks and school grounds after they are released from jail became law in Britain Tuesday. The measures were introduced by the government in response to a public outcry over the release from jail without restrictions of child killers who had finished their sentences but who were judged to be a continuing danger. The new orders imposing restrictions on individuals, specifying banned times and places, can be applied to anyone who has received a conviction or a caution for a sexual offence either in Britain or abroad. Anyone made subject to an order, which will be imposed on their release or in response to subsequent paedophilic behaviour, will be required to sign the national sex offenders register and remain under the scrutiny of the police. Orders will run for a minimum of five years and any breach could result in a maximum five-year jail term. Home Office Minister Paul Boateng said: "We are determined to reduce the risk that sex offenders pose to the public. Sex offender orders provide the police with another valuable tool to protect children and vulnerable adults from the dangers of paedophiles and serious sexual offenders living in our communities." "For example, it could stop sex offenders hanging around outside school gates, or visiting children's playgrounds and youth clubs when they have no innocent explanation for being there."

### Cuba to observe Christmas holiday

HAVANA (AFP) — For the first time in nearly three decades, Cuba will observe the Christmas holiday this year and in years to come, officials announced Tuesday. The political office of Cuba's Communist Party requested the calendar change, the officials said. The party proposed to the Council of State that "from this year onwards, Dec. 25 will be a holiday for Christians and non-Christians, believers and non-believers," the office said in a statement published Tuesday in the official Granma daily. President Fidel Castro heads both the Communist Party and the Council of State.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

## Damaging statements

**ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER** Ariel Sharon's comment that Palestinian refugees should stay put leaves little to discuss at final status negotiations when considered along with Israeli claims that Jerusalem (another final status issue) will "remain the undivided capital of Israel."

Sharon has no right to offer his predetermined outcome of final status talks on refugees before negotiations have even started, and we are, in fact, tired of Israel's similar claims on the future of Jerusalem.

According to all signed agreements, the parties are prohibited from taking unilateral actions or making unilateral declarations that aim to preempt the outcome of talks. Israel is in violation of the rules of the game and must rectify its position in order that peace talks can proceed with at least a minimum degree of positive expectations.

Israel seems to have forgotten that Jordan has a clear and grave stake in the final status talks on refugees and cannot sit idle as Israel unilaterally determines the Palestinian refugees' status.

As Israel is busy making prejudicial remarks, we could also stake our own "claims" by taking positions not only on the refugee issue but also on water, Jerusalem and border issues. Jordan could also make heavy-handed policy statements — for example, that we encourage the Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland as the most effective way to give expression to Palestinian statehood. But the Jordanian government does realise that issuing such bombastic statements does not serve the collective cause of Jordan, Israel or the Palestinians. Only fair, level-headed negotiations can do that.

All sides share the responsibility in setting the stage for constructive final status negotiations. Sharon's statement on the fate of Palestinian refugees is an affront to all those who feel responsible for building a better future for the region.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek commented on the Speech from the Throne delivered by HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, in which he included many ideas on both internal and external policy. He said the external policy of the country is prepared at the Royal Palace, while the government's internal policy included in the speech is written by the government, describing the achievements of the government in all fields, and its future plans. The speech was very clear and precise concerning the Palestinian cause, said the writer, who claimed that Israel is spreading propaganda about Jordan opposing the launching of a Palestinian state, and wanting to keep the Palestinians in their current situation. The Prince said Palestinian legitimate rights have a direct effect on Jordan's security. The launching of a Palestinian state will remove Jordan's burden concerning refugees, and is a guarantee of Jordan's security, said Al Dustour.

Al Dustour in its editorial lashed out at the Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon for rejecting the return of the Palestinian refugees, saying they must settle where they are currently staying. The paper charged that such a statement is a flagrant violation of international norms and a clear denial of Palestinian rights as well as a big blow to the Wye River accord. Israel no longer wants to negotiate with the Palestinians or with the Arabs and instead wants to dictate proceedings, said the Arabic daily. Jordan rejected the statement as premature and best left to the final status negotiations, added Al Dustour. The close relations between the Palestinians and the Jordanians entails that Jordan will do its best to grant the Palestinians all their rights, and when talks on final status start it will coordinate with them in order to reach a comprehensive and peaceful settlement, said Al Dustour.

## Washington Watch

# Three visits and their impact

**DURING THE** next month the Middle East will host a number of prominent American political leaders. Some of these visits could play an important role in reshaping the U.S. discussion of the Middle East conflict.

Former presidents Jimmy Carter and George Bush are separately touring the region with stops in Egypt and several Gulf States.

Donna Shalala, the Secretary of Health and Human Services will soon be in Lebanon on an official visit. Shalala, the highest ranking Arab American in government, will be leading a delegation on a visit which the White House has described as "underscoring the importance the United States attaches to the U.S.-Lebanon partnership."

Clearly those who follow U.S.-Lebanon ties should note this language. In just a few years, the U.S.-Lebanon relationship has moved from a friendly, but strained one, characterised by a travel ban, to what is now called a "partnership."

Later this week the Republican Governor of Texas, George W. Bush, will visit Israel and the

Palestinian National Authority (PNA). Three other Republican governors (Marc Racicot of Montana, Paul Cellucci of Massachusetts and Mike Leavitt of Utah) will join Bush. The governors' visit is being co-sponsored by the National Jewish Coalition (an extremely pro-Israel Jewish Republican organisation) and the Republican Governors association.

G.W. Bush, son of the former President George Bush, is currently in Egypt with his father. He will join the other governors in Israel later this week.

G.W. Bush is not an ordinary governor and this is not being viewed as an ordinary visit, since there are high expectations that Bush will seek the Republican nomination for President in 2000. As a result, his every move draws close scrutiny.

This is Bush's first foreign visit since his reelection as Texas governor. His choice of Israel is intriguing. But even more interesting are the details of the visit. The fact that he has joined his father in Egypt makes clear their close relationship.

The individuals with whom Bush and the other governors will meet are also interesting. The meetings include: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, former Prime Minister Shimon Peres, and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and other PNA officials.

The efforts to balance the trip, at least on paper, could be positive.

The current drift of the Republican Party in an extremist pro-Israel direction has been of real concern. The passing of Newt Gingrich from a Republican leadership role and the open rift between the more ideological congressional Republicans and the more pragmatic Republican governors could signal a check on this drift.

If G.W. Bush is, like his father, an old-line pragmatic business-oriented Republican, this could be a positive development and his involvement in the party's internal policy debate would be welcomed by Arab American Republicans.

As a result, Bush's visit will be followed closely both for the

signals he sends and the balance he displays.

Two weeks later, on December 14, President Clinton travels to Gaza in order to address a meeting of the Palestine National Council and other Palestinian leaders. There is some dispute about this meeting.

Israel's view that the meeting must result in a two-thirds vote to formally repudiate the Palestinian Covenant is not shared by either the United States or the PNA. The United States and PNA view the charter as already having been altered and see this meeting as more generally witnessing or reaffirming this fact.

The business of the covenant aside, the importance of the visit by the president and the First Lady can hardly be reduced to this act. An official visit by a U.S. President to Gaza is filled with both historical significance and opportunity.

While the visit itself will not constitute U.S. recognition of Palestinian statehood, it indicates that such recognition is, at this point, a matter of technicalities and timing.

More importantly the

President's visit will open up Palestine to a huge American audience. His visit and speech will shine a light on the Palestinian experience and reality. Each place visited by the president and First Lady will be seen by Americans who will have their view of Palestinians changed in the process.

In the game of politics where the rules dictate that only small steps be taken, this represents the possibility of a giant step forward.

It will be important to see not only what the U.S. visits do, but also what the president says — what recognition he gives to the Palestinian past and to Palestinian aspirations for the future.

At the end of this month, having been able to assess the details of each of these visits, we'll be in a better position to determine what their impact will be on the internal U.S. policy debate, but it appears that the United States attitude toward Lebanon, the Republican Party's treatment of Arab concerns and official U.S. policy toward Palestinian rights may be advancing.

## Stamps of discrimination

By Ray Hanania

"OH NO, not you again?" The U.S. Postmaster General exclaimed in his most horrified sounding voice. "I suppose you're looking for another stamp for Eid Al Fitr?"

"No," I replied. "I am looking for a postage stamp for Eid Al Fitr, an Islamic holiday. I want to do what other Americans in this country do when they send a holiday greeting card. They use a stamp that reflects their message."

"We don't have any Eid Al Fitr stamps," the U.S. Postmaster declared. "How many times do I have to tell you that?"

"As often as it takes," I replied.

You see, the U.S. Post Office offers a Christmas stamp that I can put on holiday greeting card for

Christians. It only costs 32 cents.

And, I can purchase a Hanukkah stamp that I can put on holiday greeting cards to my Jewish friends. (You see, I really do believe in the goal of creating a non-sectarian state where Jews, Christians and Muslims can live together as equals and in peace!) And, I can even purchase a Kwanzaa stamp.

"Why don't you use a Kwanzaa stamp?" the U.S. Postmaster General asked, scoffing at my intelligence.

"They're African American stamps," he replied. "Muslims are people who believe in Islam which is a religion, not a nationality. This year, the Islamic holiday will closely coincide to Hanukkah and Christmas and Kwanzaa, which is an African American holiday

recognised only recently to help African Americans celebrate and publicly extol the virtues of their own culture."

I paused, and made the same point I made last year. "Muslims deserve a holiday stamp recognising their religion, too, especially since they are among the fastest growing religious groups in the United States. And, they may outnumber, for example, Jews, as an American religious group. And someday they will even outnumber African Americans, too! Not all Muslims are Arabs. The religion includes people from tens of other countries from around the world. Many African Americans are Muslim."

"Well, I don't see anyone beating down the door of the U.S. Postal Service to get to issue an Eid Al Fitr stamp to celebrate the

Muslim holiday?" the U.S. Postmaster General replied. And that, I would humbly argue, is exactly my point.

If we want a stamp, every Muslim, every Arab, every Christian who believes in equality, should be knocking on the door of their local postal service and make the same demand.

But, just in case, maybe there is a very talented lawyer out there who might wish to make a Class Action lawsuit point about this very clear form of religious and ethnic discrimination.

The wall can come down, one stamp at a time.

The writer is a Palestinian American author and journalist and philatelist with one of the largest known collections of Palestine Stamps in the Midwest.



## How to impress a president

By George S. Hishmeh

**WASHINGTON** — How should Palestinians impress President Bill Clinton, and through him the American public, when he makes the first visit by a sitting American president to Palestinian lands in mid-December? And particularly since he is bringing with him First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who had publicly supported the Palestinians' right to statehood, for a two-day tour of what Yasser Arafat likes to call the "Terra Sancta."

The subject is naturally of major importance to the American president's aides who recently invited some leaders of the Arab American community to a meeting at the White House for their input into the tight schedule of the visit to Gaza, Bethlehem and Jerusalem, which is expected to be a security nightmare.

When asked for suggestions, Nabil Shaath, the Palestinian minister of Planning and International Cooperation, who is in Washington for the donors conference Monday, said privately that he would highlight the "state of siege" imposed on the Palestinians by the Israeli occupiers. The ideas for this showcase tour are endless, if one were not to factor in the political dimension of the trip.

The White House officials from the National Security Council and the Office of Public Liaison made it clear to the Arab Americans, according to one participant, "that they viewed the trip as an opportunity to familiarise the American people with the life that the Palestinians have in order to justify to the electorate the (projected) increases in aid to the Palestinians," Salem said.

In fact, he continued, "I believe they are hoping that this (trip) would be more or less a lobbying campaign, without being called such, so that members of Congress would feel more inclined to give money," to the Palestinians.

The Clinton administration has announced that it is seeking an additional \$400 million in assistance for the Palestinian Authority, over and above the \$500 million it plans to contribute over the next five years. (More than \$3 billion was promised to the Palestinians at an international donors conference held in Washington on Monday).

In turn, the Israelis are seeking \$1.2 billion from the U.S. in compensation for the second scheduled pullback from the West Bank agreed

to at the Wye Plantation talks last October. The funds are to go toward paying for bypass roads around the Jewish settlements and other security measures in the occupied territories. Israel receives over \$3 billion in U.S. economic and military assistance annually.

Salem is co-founder with James Zogby of the influential Arab American Institute (AAI), which was successful earlier this year in having Clinton address their convention, the first president to do so.

Clinton is travelling to Gaza primarily to speak at a meeting of members of the Palestine National Congress (PNC) and other Palestinian bodies who are expected to reiterate the elimination of anti-Israeli articles from the PNC Charter. His trip was part of the bargain struck at the Wye Plantation, which in turn paved the way for a long-delayed second Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank in compliance with the 1993 Oslo accords.

Zogby, who is president of AAI, saw the upcoming presidential trip as "by far more significant than anything that has ever happened" in this respect. He explained that "wherever the (American) president goes, the eyes of Americans go" and, through the television networks that will cover the visit, "Americans will get an idea about Palestinians that they never had before... it opens a window to a reality like when he went to China."

Zogby thought "it is more important that he is there than the stated purpose" of the visit, the amendment of the Palestinian Charter. The major issue is that the president of the United States is making a formal visit to the Palestinian Authority.

But the White House aides would not commit themselves to any of the ideas presented by the Arab Americans. The "symbolic" significance of the Clintons landing at the Yasser Arafat International Airport in Gaza was stressed, Salem said, but the aides thought the president would most probably travel to Tel Aviv first, and then go to Gaza by helicopter. Another suggestion for a visit to Ramallah, since it serves as the unofficial "seat" of the Palestinian government, or to some of the Jewish settlements were thought to be "sensitive." The Arab Americans also expressed disappointment that the president may not visit east Jerusalem, which Arafat has described here last Sunday before an Arab American audience as the capital of the Palestinian state.

Even a suggestion that Clinton should take along on his plane some Arab Americans as part of the official American delegation was not readily endorsed. The aides countered that

## LETTERS

### Short-sighted business

To the editor:

WHILE I AM sure that some Jordanians will be pleased that JTC is planning to introduce an Integrated Services Digital Network including video conferencing soon (Jordan Times Nov. 28), personally I would like an explanation from the company as to why Jordan is alone in this region is not providing an access number for telephone calling cards such as AT&T and MCI. I have used my card in both Egypt and Israel and access numbers are listed for Lebanon, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Telephone operators in Jordan will not accept overseas collect calls and it appears that even toll-free numbers at least to the U.S. are blocked.

This policy is not user-friendly particularly for tourists and business people, and seems short-sighted particularly for those who might need to call in an emergency.

Ashley Robinson  
ashleyrobinson@hotmail.com

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing and abridging.

By Anthony Clat

WHAT IS God's name is not our problem. Our problem is that we are not God. We are not the ones who create life and death. We are not the ones who decide what is right and wrong. We are not the ones who control the universe. We are just a small part of a much larger whole. We are just a speck in the vastness of space. We are just a drop in the ocean of life. We are just a moment in the long history of the universe. We are just a flicker of light in the darkness of night. We are just a breath of air in the stillness of the void. We are just a whisper in the silence of the eternity. We are just a shadow in the light of the sun. We are just a dream in the reality of the world. We are just a thought in the mind of God. We are just a feeling in the heart of the soul. We are just a voice in the choir of the angels. We are just a name in the book of the living. We are just a person in the world of the living. We are just a human in the family of the human. We are just a child in the arms of the parent. We are just a friend in the heart of the friend. We are just a lover in the arms of the lover. We are just a citizen in the land of the citizen. We are just a man in the world of the man. We are just a woman in the world of the woman. We are just a child in the world of the child. We are just a parent in the world of the parent. We are just a friend in the world of the friend. We are just a lover in the world of the lover. We are just a citizen in the world of the citizen. We are just a man in the world of the man. We are just a woman in the world of the woman. We are just a child in the world of the child. We are just a parent in the world of the parent. We are just a friend in the world of the friend. We are just a lover in the world of the lover. We are just a citizen in the world of the citizen. We are just a man in the world of the man. We are just a woman in the world of the woman. We are just a child in the world of the child. 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# What's wrong with men?

By Anthony Clare

WHAT IN God's name is wrong with men? Our prisons bulge with them. They wreak havoc on roads for all their reputation as gifted drivers. Drugs, alcohol, AIDS, gambling, single-parenthood — the statistics consistently confirm that when it comes to antisocial behaviour, risk-taking and social mayhem, men win gold. Yet for all their behaving badly, they do not seem any the happier. The rise in the number of young men killing themselves across much of Europe has been termed an epidemic. For the old, the situation is no better. For every six elderly women in 100,000 who kill themselves each year, 40 elderly men take their own lives. And the suicide figures are viewed as the tip of an iceberg of an even larger epidemic of male depression, an epidemic hidden only because men are either too proud or too emotionally constipated to admit to their feelings being out of control. Men, renowned for their ability and inclination to get stoned, drunk or sexually daring, appear to be terrified by the prospect of revealing that they can be — and often are — depressed.

Perhaps it was ever thus, and all that is happening now is that men are coming out of the emotional closet. Or maybe there is a genuine rise in male dissatisfaction. There is no shortage of suggested causes. Top of the list is the growing assertiveness of women. The fact that men still outnumber women in positions of power across the globe, are paid more and still glow downwards the glass ceiling, serves only to obscure the extent to which the very foundations of all this patriarchy is being steadily eroded. In every education authority in England and Wales, girls are outclassing boys — in primary schools, through secondary education and right into the universities. In the European Union, 120 women have university degrees compared with every 100 men. And on leaving school, women's prospects exceed men's, not just here but in other European countries, too. In Germany, for example, between 1991 and 1995, twice as many men lost their jobs as did women. In West Germany, women even gained 210,000 jobs, while men lost 400,000. Young men are more and more aware that the basis on which their superiority and power have rested over the centuries is evaporating in a flatulent, self-deceiving puff. Many are reacting with a

mixture of aggression and self-destruction.

And if changes in education, training and work are not sufficient to demoralise the average man, there is the dismal public soap opera of man's relationship with penis. For one thing, he appears unable to keep the damn thing under control. This affliction even affects the most powerful man in the world! He, who has been entrusted with pressing or not pressing the nuclear button, cannot keep the same hand from the zip on his trousers. In Britain, ministers of state, who exude a pompous self-satisfaction with the political power they wield, are regularly revealed to be randy goats unable to a shapely thigh or a heaving cleavage. And there is no respite from exposure to the darker side of male sexuality — the relentless media revelations of rape, paedophilia, sexual violence committed overwhelmingly by men against women and children. Innocent men, rather like the relatives of torturers or Gestapo agents, find themselves apologising for crimes they have not committed — but for many, the very fact of being a man is itself the mark of Cain.

At a recent meeting in my old Alma Mater, University College Dublin, Germanine Greer declared that underlying much of the dynamic between men and women is "the fear of the unknown female, the contempt of the known female." She is right. I believe, but her analysis needs to be taken further. Why are men so fearful? What is fuelling the contempt? Might the fear, the contempt, be related to a deeper anxiety concerning their own sexuality? I realise that here I am treading on dangerous ground. Put a foot wrong and you risk being accused of blaming women for men's inability to control their sexual inclinations. That is what many men believe, and some even act on it. Women are feared, despised and sometimes even destroyed because of what men perceive women do to them. Male sexuality is unpredictable, capricious, dangerous; but the male is tempted to project all this and more on to women — and many do just that.

It is, of course, true that women, by their very presence, remind men of the precarious control men exercise over their own sexuality. Given the extent to which men make a fetish of being in control, any suggestion of a lack threatens the very essence of what, to many men, being a male is all about. What made much of the discussion of Bill Clinton's sexual behaviour fasci-

nating was the extent to which the hoary old Garden of Eden myth that men fall because women tempt them is still alive and flourishing, even within the breast of many a robust feminist. Many men, and many women too, blame the seductive Monica for leading poor old Bill astray, a

*'He, who has been entrusted with pressing or not pressing the nuclear button, cannot keep the same hand from the zip on his trousers'*

Men, particularly young men, do seem discomfited and threatened by what has happened to the self-confidence and the self-esteem of women and many, characteristically, prefer to project the blame for their own misfortunes back on to women than to accept that the change in women necessitates, indeed demands, a corresponding change in men.

Greer mischievously taunts men for our preoccupation with the size, shape and recital potential of our genitalia, dismissing our prized manhood with Sylvia Plath's concise description as — "old turkey neck and gizzards." Men, particularly young men, are still disconcerted, mocking references to their genitals. The Full Monty quite explicitly drew an analogy between the male inadequacy consequent on

the loss of a job and male anxiety concerning genital potency. Men must share, bond, emotionally relate; must reveal themselves, if they are to be fully human, went the movie's message — and then, the ultimate male cop-out, everything was indeed revealed to the cinema audience at the

finale — save "old turkey neck and gizzards"! Germanine Greer is wrong if she attributes the male preoccupation with the shape, size and erectile potential of the penis to inordinate pride, it is founded on an incorrigible fear — not the Freudian fear of castration so much as the Adlerian fear of ridicule. Are we up to it, ask today's men anxiously, fretting at their social skills and shrivelled cocks: are we up to competing, succeeding, achieving, conquering, controlling, asserting, pontificating, as well as getting it up?

And there is the unavoidable reality that, unlike the female orgasm, a male erection cannot be feigned. The obvious visibility of the male genitals, their state and size, aroused and unaroused, are readily measurable and comparable. Hardly surprising, therefore, that the arrival of Viagra is accompanied not merely by much dodgy humour and double-entendre but by po-faced yet panicky political discussions about the bankrupting of health finances due to a stampede by men to get their hands on the latest "old turkey gizzard" stimulant.

And when Greer declared in *The Female Eunuch* that the male perversion of violence is an essential condi-

tion of the degradation of women, that the penis is conceived of as a weapon, where was the male response? How have men answered the accusation that the male sexual drive is blindly aggressive, egotistical, narcissistic, destructive? With a few admirable exceptions, we have responded for the most part by behaving in precisely those ways — aggressively denigrating, ridiculing and dismissing the feminist analysis as so much emotional toot.

And all that the little Y chromosome counts for — the male strength, stature, muscle power, attributes which in a world of iron and steel and coal, of shipbuilding, labouring, lumber jacking, soldiering provided men with their justification and their self-importance, count for damn all now. This very week has been full of reminiscences of the Great War, a war distinguished among many things by the terrible losses sustained by European manhood. It marked the end of war as an overwhelmingly male preserve. Today, citizens, male and female, as well as soldiers, die in armed conflict, and women have insinuated themselves into the military of many countries. Men no longer die for anyone but themselves, and chivalrous masculine sacrifice for domestic hearth and helpless women is the stuff now only of Bogart movies, Merchant/Ivory costume dramas and, irony of ironies, the year's most successful film, *Titanic*.

There is hardly anything that can be done that can't be done by a woman. So what, say women, not unreasonably given the age it has taken to establish such a state of affairs. So what indeed. The problem is one for men, and particularly for those men — who have defined their lives, their identities, the very essence of their masculinity in terms of work, and have prided themselves on the work that only they could do. Men's mess is compounded by the male inability, refusal or reluctance to engage in any serious analysis of the extraordinary impact that the industrial and scientific revolutions have had on their notions of masculinity.

And then there is the problem of men as husbands, men as fathers. The second millennium is ending with man's claim to a role in procreation, let alone a key role, under serious threat. The rise of single-parent families is a reflection of both male inadequacy and male redundancy. Increasingly, women are asserting that they can do it on their own. They don't need fathers for their children. The development of assisted reproduction, including techniques such as IVF, AID and surrogate motherhood, and the highly political and questionable argument that single parenting is good as two parents, raise the question: whether the role of the father? Conception, pregnancy, delivery and child-rearing seemingly can be perfectly well accomplished without the active participation of the male. Once so proud of his penis (poor old Freud even believe women envied it), man now finds he has been reduced to the role of support seed-carrier as woman occupies centre-stage in the creation and nurturing of new life. Not surprisingly, there have been those who have seriously suggested that the only way men can regain a reproductive, a biological role of any significance is if they can be assisted by science to have babies themselves!

In a courageous piece, written earlier this year, Fay Weldon declared that women need men as partners and fathers, and that life without them isn't all that much fun for most women. It is a risky argument as it goes against the conventional feminist thesis concerning the redundancy of the male. But we men cannot depend on the Fay Weldons of this world to make our case. We have to make it ourselves. In *Anatomy of Desire*, his recently published, provocative and fair exploration of the nature of male and female sexuality, Simon Andreea concludes that for all the numerous alternative ways of arranging human sexual relationships, the union of one man and one woman, for better or worse, "is still as sensible and realistic a way of trying to optimise human relations and contributes to the greater happiness, peace and stability of mankind as any of the myriad alternatives." If he is right, and with regard to heterosexual men I believe he is, then I believe that within that perspective many men can begin to rediscover the point, purpose and satisfaction of being a male in the first place. A century ago, a peevish Freud, perplexed by the seeming epidemic of hysterical, depressed, "What do women want?" And century later, it is not women's wants but men's that mystifies us.

The writer is currently writing a book on redefining masculinity, *The Dying Phallus*, for Chatto and Windus. This article is reprinted from the Independent.

## 40 years on the Cuban revolution still stirs passion

By Andrew Cawthorne  
Reuters

ALMOST EXACTLY four decades after a group of bearded young rebels rode in from the hills to claim power in Cuba, their bloody, epoch-making revolution continues to stir passion and polemics around the world.

Former guerrillas and supporters of Fidel Castro's fight to topple ex-dictator Fulgencio Batista recall with fire in their eyes the extraordinary events around the Jan. 1, 1959, Cuban revolution that irrevocably marked Latin American history.

But that passion is matched by current debate, both within and outside the island, over the legacy and future of the Cuban revolution. Was it worth it? What are its successes and failures? How has it survived? And will it last? These are among the key questions being debated as Havana prepares an official celebration of the 40th anniversary.

Having given 1998 the unwieldy name, "Year of the 40th Anniversary of the Decisive Battles of the War of Liberation," the ruling Communist Party has not yet revealed details of how the actual anniversary will be marked.

But celebrations are expected to centre on the "cradle of the revolution," Santiago de Cuba province, where the rebels landed in 1956 and held out in the mountains for three years.

Nowhere is the Cuban revolution more vividly symbolised than in the tall, bearded figure of its "Maximum Leader," a fiery young idealist who threw down the gauntlet in 1953 with a daring but abortive attack on the Moncada military barracks.

After being jailed and then given an amnesty, Castro went to Mexico before leading a small fighting force back to Cuba on the yacht Granma in 1956. From there, he led a successful guerrilla war on Batista from the Sierra Maestra mountains.

Batista fled in the early hours of Jan. 1, 1959. Two of the top rebel commanders, Ernesto "Che" Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos, entered Havana, unkempt but joyous, on Jan. 2, and Castro rode in a week later to massive acclaim.

"The day Fidel came was incredible... a sea of people in the street. Everyone was with them," recalled Virgilio Sanchez, who distributed propaganda in Havana in the days leading up to the revolution.

There was an effervescence... enthusiasm, idealism, in those days... it was a new dawn," added Sanchez, who is now retired, living in a quiet suburb of Havana and still a die-hard "Fidelista" or

Castro supporter.

Forty years later, the now gray-bearded Castro, who turned 72 in August, continues to rule Cuba as one of the world's longest-serving leaders and the head of the American continent's only Communist state.

In the decades between, he survived the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, many assassination plots, the October 1962 missile crisis, a 36-year U.S. economic embargo, long periods of foreign isolation and the enmity of eight U.S. presidents.

Most recently, Castro has defied the many predictions of his downfall at the start of this decade following the domino-like collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and a severe economic crisis in Cuba.

"The world was wrong because they saw Cuba in Eastern European terms," said Antoni Kapcia, a Cuba specialist at Britain's Wolverhampton University. "But this was a home-based revolution... it did not share any of the features of Eastern Europe, other than inefficiency." Kapcia attributed the government's survival to successful grass-roots structures such as the ubiquitous Committees for the Defence of the Revolution, a slow but noticeable economic recovery since 1994, Cubans' underlying nationalism, the state's ability to adapt to circumstances and Castro's perceived legitimacy.

"When you go through a crisis, you hang on to what you know," he said.

To his enemies, Castro is a dictator and tyrant who rides roughshod over human rights with the jailing and repression of political opponents and ignores democratic principles to impose a one-party socialist system and deny free elections.

To admirers, he is a heroic symbol of revolutionary socialism in practice, Third World solidarity and resistance to heavy-handed U.S. bullying. He is also praised for providing free medicine and schooling for all, helping to raise health and education in Cuba to First World levels.

"You have been an inspiration to the developing countries of the world by your steadfast defence of the right of the people to determine their own destiny," one unashamed admirer, Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings, told Castro recently.

Pinning the African nation's highest honour, the Order of the Star of Ghana, on Castro's trademark military uniform, Rawlings gave thanks for the privilege "of being alive to meet one of the most legendary personalities of our times." Humbug, cry Castro's foes, most notably in the flight from Cuba after the revolution. U.S. Representative Lincoln Diaz-Balart, a Cuban American and distant Castro relative, blamed him for "unbeliev-

able misery and destruction" on the island and said: "This is an anniversary of blood and tears and shame and totalitarianism." Ninoska Perez of the hardline anti-Castro lobbying group, the Cuban American National Foundation, said: "If you had told the Cuban people back then that 40 years later they would be living in a totalitarian country where people throw themselves to the sea in makeshift rafts and risk the lives of their children to escape, they would not have believed it." While criticism is common, such radical terminology is rarely heard inside Cuba where, for different reasons, Castro is seldom referred to in flagrantly disrespectful terms. Most people prefer to touch an imaginary beard or military stripe on their shoulder instead of mentioning his name.

There are no public opinion polls but informal discussions with Cubans across the spectrum show only a few other than government officials are prepared either to defend the system to the hilt or oppose it actively. A larger number seem weary of aspects of the system but nervous about radical change.

"I don't say everything's perfect here and, yes, there have to be changes. But what's the alternative? Let the Miami crowd come back and take over everything that's ours? Let the United States control us? Nobody wants that either," said Luisa, a 23-year-old student, sitting on Havana's seafloor Malecon and pointing across the water toward Florida.

Castro's own wish is for his most trusted allies to carry on after he leaves power, presumably when he dies although possibly through retirement. He has designated his brother Raul, head of the armed forces and a fellow founder of the revolution, as his successor.

But many believe senior leaders such as Vice-President Carlos Lage, National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon or Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina are more likely candidates to lead the system or be part of a collective leadership.

This assumes the system will survive after Castro, but some predict chaos and possibly violence in a post-Castro scenario, with an upsurge of opposition forces on a collision course with the Communist rulers who control the military.

For now, there is little sign of relinquishing power from a man who still manages to give five-hour speeches without slitting down or pausing for a sip of water.

"He keeps a high public profile but is gradually removing himself from detailed decision-making... I think he plans to remain as a figurehead, an ideological conscience," said Cuba expert Kapcia. "But whatever else happens, he's sure to survive Bill Clinton!"



### THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN THE ARAB POTASH COMPANY LIMITED INVITATION TO TENDER CONTRACT NO T-8/98 GRANULAR POTASH PRODUCTION EXPANSION COMPACTION PLANT PROJECT

The (Arab Potash Company Limited) (APC) invites tenderers to tender for compaction plant in order to increase its Granular Potash Production in the Cold Crystallisation Refinery located at the southern end of the Dead Sea; Safi, Jordan. The scope of work to be carried out consists of a new compaction plant to produce high quality granular potash product. Dryer discharge fine from the existing cold crystallisation plant shall be considered the main feed for the Compaction Plant to produce 120,000 metric tonnes per year of granular potash product suitable as a direct application fertiliser or for granular blending with other fertilisers. The scope of work shall cover the know-how, design, engineering, procurement; supply, construction, commissioning, testing, start-up and putting into commercial operation on a "Turnkey Job Basis" as per tender documents. Specialised compaction plant manufacturers having experience in similar works can tender in this contract, taking into consideration the following:

1. The tender document can be purchased from the procurement department at (Arab Potash Company Limited) Head Office in Shmeisani, Amman, at a non-refundable fee of JD500 (five hundred Jordanian dinars) or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency for each set.
2. Tenders must be accompanied by a tender bond from a bank licensed in Jordan in the form of a bank guarantee in the value of JD100,000 (one hundred thousand Jordanian dinars) contained in the tender document. The tender bond shall be valid for 150 (one hundred and fifty) days from the closing date of the tender submission.
3. A site visit will take place on Saturday 19/12/1998; Tenderers representatives shall gather at 08:00 hours Jordan time at (Arab Potash Company Limited) Head Office in Shmeisani.
4. The closing date for purchasing the tender documents is 14/12/1998.
5. The closing date for submission of tender shall be 12:00 noon Jordan local time, 31/01/1999. The validity of tender shall be 120 (one hundred and twenty) days from the closing date of the tender submission. Tenders to be submitted to (Arab Potash Company Limited) Head Office in Shmeisani, Amman.

For any clarification you may contact (on the following plant site address)

Attn. Procurement Manager

P.O. Box: 1470-Amman 11118 - Jordan

Fax : 962-3-377131, Plant Site

Tel. : 962-3-377121, or 22, 23 Plant Site

General Manager  
Naser Al-Sadoun







## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

### Government collects JD677.4 million in revenues during the first half of this year

THE LOCAL revenues collected by the government during the first half of this year amounted to JD677.4 million, according to preliminary official figures issued by the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ). Tax revenues totalled JD413.5 million whereas the non-tax revenues were the remaining JD263.9 million.

The official figures detailed the tax revenues as follows: JD90.2 million from taxes on income and profits, JD175.9 million from taxes on local transactions, JD136.7 million from taxes on external trade and JD10.7 million from additional taxes.

Taxes on incomes and profits of shareholding companies accounted for JD50.8 million of the JD90.2 million total mentioned above. Taxes on incomes of individuals and employees/workers amounted to JD16.8 million and JD5.9 million respectively and the remaining JD6.7 million were taxes on dividends distributed to shareholders.

Sales tax amounted to JD154 million and JD21.9 million were other taxes that brought the total to JD175.9 million mentioned above as taxes from local transaction. Most of the taxes on external trade were customs duties which totalled JD134.6 million with the remaining JD2 million representing fines and confiscations.

Non-tax revenues included JD11.7 million from licensing, JD77.1 from fees and JD1.7 million from telegrams, post and telephone charges after separating the revenues of the Jordan Telecommunications Company from the beginning of 1996. The government earned JD3.5 million from interest and JD5.1 million from

dividends on its investments. Other unexplained non-tax revenues stood at JD164.8 million.

The government's local revenues totalled JD1,426 million during 1997. Of this amount, JD842 million were revenues from taxes and JD584 million were non-tax revenue.

Taxes on incomes and profits totalled JD156.7 million or 11 per cent of the revenues. Taxes on local transactions amounted to JD410.4 million, of which JD345.5 million represented sales tax, accounted for 24 per cent. Taxes on external trade, accounting for 17 per cent of the total tax revenue, totalled JD246.6 million of which JD240.4 million were customs duties.

Non-tax revenue last year stood at JD584.7 million of which JD166.4 million were fees accounting for 12 per cent of the total non-tax revenue. Various other unexplained revenue totalled JD361.5 million.

According to Eid Kharabsheh, president of the Audit Bureau, most of the tax revenues are indirect taxes as the direct ones contribute only to one fifth of the tax revenues. He indicated that the high volume of indirect taxes, despite being easy to collect, "are less fair in the distribution of the tax burden according to the capability of the citizen to pay."

Kharabsheh pointed out that the income and social services tax accounted for 80 per cent of the direct taxes and that customs duties accounted for 50 per cent of the total indirect taxes. He concluded by saying that in Jordan there are 59 types of revenues from taxes and fees (Al Dustour + Al Aswag).

A.F.M. TRADE Tuesday, 01-12-98

ACCESS 4648888

Company	Open	Close	Change
<b>BANKS</b>			
ARAB BN	216.000	216.000	0.00%
ARAB BN	1.810	1.810	-0.02%
ARAB BN	1.100	1.100	0.00%
INDUSTRIAL DEV BN	1.430	1.430	0.00%
THE JORDAN BN	2.740	2.740	0.00%
JO. KUWAIT BN	1.880	1.880	+1.20%
JO. GULF BN	0.770	0.770	-2.80%
ARAB JO. INVEST BN	2.200	2.200	+2.20%
JO. ISLAMIC BN	1.700	1.700	-1.10%
UNION BN	0.840	0.840	0.00%
JO. INVESTMENT BN	1.430	1.430	+1.40%
PHILADELPHIA BN	0.850	0.850	-1.50%
<b>BANKS INDEX</b>			
	270.420		point = -0.10%
<b>INSURANCE</b>			
JO. FRENCH INS	2.700	2.700	0.00%
ARAB INS	1.850	1.850	0.00%
<b>INSURANCE INDEX</b>			
	125.820		point = 0.00%
<b>SERVICES</b>			
ELECTRIC POWER	1.450	1.450	0.00%
VEHICLES OWNERS	1.890	1.890	+4.70%
PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	0.800	0.810	+1.25%
JO. INTL. TRADING CENT	0.310	0.310	+1.60%
AL. JORDAN FOR ECU	0.830	0.830	+1.20%
ARAB INTL. FOR INVEST E	1.810	1.840	+2.00%
UNION LAND DEV	0.610	0.610	0.00%
UNION LAND TRANS	1.140	1.140	0.00%
<b>SERVICES INDEX</b>			
	102.480		point = +0.64%
<b>INDUSTRY</b>			
AT-TANOSIP	1.100	1.100	0.00%
CEMENT	2.420	2.420	0.00%
PHOSPHATE	1.180	1.180	0.00%
ARAB POTASH	3.200	3.100	-3.10%
PETROLEUM REFINERY	10.240	10.240	-0.20%
WOLLEN AD	0.890	0.890	0.00%
THE IND. COMB. & AGRICU	1.030	1.030	+1.84%
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL	2.900	2.900	0.00%
JO. DARY	2.900	2.900	0.00%
YORACCO & CHAGREY	1.230	1.230	-2.44%
JO. MIP	0.670	0.670	-3.92%
JO. STEEL	0.810	0.810	+3.92%
RAFA	0.680	0.680	+3.97%
DAR AL DAWA	4.850	4.810	-0.41%
INDUST. EAST COMPLEX	1.050	1.050	+1.90%
JO. STEEL	0.890	0.890	0.00%
ARAB ALUMINIUM	1.970	1.980	+4.81%
CHLORINE	1.150	1.150	+1.70%
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0.420	0.410	-2.38%
JO. MID	0.390	0.390	0.00%
PETRO. CHEMICAL	0.310	0.310	+3.20%
ROCKWOOL	0.330	0.330	+6.00%
JO. CHEMICAL	0.900	0.700	-5.00%
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL	0.970	1.020	+5.15%
GENERAL WIVES	0.200	0.200	0.00%
JO. CABLE	0.650	0.680	+4.62%
SULPHO. CHEMICAL	0.890	0.890	+2.50%
ARAB CENTER FOR PHAR	0.410	0.410	+4.80%
KAWYER	0.410	0.420	+2.44%
TEL. ZAY	1.080	1.080	+0.93%
UNIVERSAL MODERN IND	0.410	0.410	+1.70%
IND. RESOURCES	0.410	0.410	+0.93%
NEW CAPLES	0.910	0.920	+1.10%
JO. ALUMINIUM	0.780	0.780	0.00%
<b>INDUSTRY INDEX</b>			
	72.440		point = -1.13%
<b>PARALLEL</b>			
EXPORT B. (75	0.830	0.830	0.00%
JO. TRADING FACILITIES	0.400	0.400	0.00%
CENTRAL TRADING	0.280	0.280	+0.35%
UNION INVEST CORP	0.680	0.680	+4.52%
AL. KIBAL	0.800	0.800	0.00%
ADVANCED PHAR	0.630	0.630	+3.77%
MEDICAL APPLIANCES	0.630	0.630	+3.97%
AL. DAWLAIN	0.970	0.970	+1.75%
ARAB INVESTORS	1.000	0.980	-2.00%
ARAB INTL. TRADING	0.610	0.610	+1.65%
OPTICAL & AURAL	0.340	0.340	+3.58%
NAMCO	0.280	0.280	0.00%
TEXTILE & PLASTIC	0.290	0.290	+4.00%
EL. CENTRAL IND	0.340	0.340	+4.70%
INDUST. EAST PHAR (M)	0.650	0.650	+2.69%
AL. KAD	0.590	0.590	0.00%
UNION IND. IND	0.410	0.410	+4.70%
INTL. CERAMIC	0.420	0.410	-4.62%
JO. STEEL	0.890	0.890	+5.20%
PEAL	0.280	0.280	+3.77%
JO. STEEL	0.890	0.890	0.00%
<b>GRAND INDEX</b>			
	164.08		point = -0.30%

## JSC licenses two major firms as stock brokerages

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — In a step that is likely to anger brokerage companies at the Amman Financial Market (AFM), the Jordan Securities Commission (JSC) has licensed two brokerage companies to join the existing firms.

The decision to license the two firms came one week after brokers appealed to the JSC not to license new companies.

The brokerage firms believe that it would be harmful to the AFM to grant new licences because many firms have incurred financial losses in the stock market due to the decline in the overall turnover and in share prices.

On Monday, the commission licensed an Arab Bank-owned brokerage firm and authorised another to be set up by the Arab United Investors Company which was established

in 1994 with a capital of JD16 million.

Six other firms are expected to get licences by the end of this month.

The association of brokerage firms held a meeting Tuesday to discuss the new step by the commission. The meeting is expected to continue Wednesday.

Mohammad Bilbeisi, head of the association, declined to comment on the JSC move but last week he told the Jordan Times that granting new licences will increase the losses of the brokerages.

JSC said the new licences are aimed at attracting new investments to the market as part of their plans to upgrade the stock market's operations.

Brokers said the JSC's objective behind the new regulation was to draw commercial banks and big financial companies into the stock brokerage business.

The decision was also aimed at enhancing the positions of the current brokerage firms by increasing their capital to face the "upcoming needs."

A broker at the stock market said the JSC decision disappointed the brokerage firms because it will affect their current activities.

"The market do not need more firms," said the broker, who asked not to be named. "What the AFM need is other tools that will enhance its activities such as investment and financial companies."

"Unfortunately, the brokers are helpless and cannot do anything. They will have to swallow the new instructions," the broker added.

The broker indicated that out of the 27 firms in the market, eight firms are facing "difficulties" and their suffering will "double if new firms appeared on the stage."

## Red Cross, Crescent plan millennium lottery to raise funds

GENEVA (AFP) — Two thousand people will become millionaires on the first day of the next century in an international lottery set up this week to help the world's poor.

The International Millennium Fund was set up in association with the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, its sister organisation in the Islamic World.

The organisers hope to raise a billion dollars or more from the global lottery.

At least 30 per cent of ticket sales will go to help people in need around the world.

said fund director Dwight Mihalicz.

The Red Cross and other humanitarian organisations are faced with a lack of resources, as the number of people in need across the world has grown and traditional aid mechanisms suffer from a lack of donor interest.

George Weber, head of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, said last April that "people want to help but there is a limit to what you can hope to raise from voluntary contributions."

Blocks of ten tickets, retailing at \$10, can be bought

from the Million 2000 lottery by phone or by accessing an Internet lottery site controlled by the Liechtenstein government.

There will be 2,000 lucky tickets printed with the six winning numbers and all those ticket holders will become new millennium millionaires.

The main draw will be televised around the globe on Jan. 1, 2000, while ticket holders will be able to participate in smaller monthly lotteries to win computers, cars or cruises, the organisers said.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Think about how you can increase your income, and whom you'd like to be with, whether you have money or not. The best things in life are still free. You might decide to further your education rather than take a higher-paying job right now. Make sure the direction you're headed leads to your goals.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You're pondering a decision concerning your money and somebody else's. This might involve going into debt, something you'd rather not do. If it's the only way to get what you want, such as real estate, make your move carefully. Actually, your best bet is to stay put. A wise investment would be to buy the property you're already in.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Your luck is improving today, and you'll notice that your mind is moving much more quickly. There's competition, which always brings out your best talents. You'll be excellent today in the debate, even though you may not win. You're going to put up a great fight, and the others will admire you for your incredible wit.

**CANCER:** (June 22 to July 22) There's a lot of confusion today. There could also be somebody nipping at your heels, telling you to move faster. You like to call the shots, but you do it in such a gentle way, other people might not realise how powerful you are. Today you may have to speak up. If you don't, you won't get a moment's peace.

**LEO:** (July 23 to August 22) A gathering with friends or associates should turn out well. You'll discover interesting new ways to accomplish your goals. You're creative by yourself, but with a group, you're awesome. Use this opportunity to share your ideas, even if they aren't fully developed. The group will help you flesh them out and discard the unworkable ones.

**VIRGO:** (August 23 to September 22) You could get a raise, a check in the mail or even an offer of more work. Some sort of the hefty increase in your income appears to be pending. If you see an opportunity, gather it up and carry through on it. Your energy level is high, especially when there's a chance of making more money.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 23) There's a conflict between education and finances again today. You have to spend time taking instruction before you can access the big bucks. On the other hand, you need the money now. You might have to do something that pays less so you can pay your bills. Study the new material while playing your old trade.

**SCORPIO:** (October 24 to November 21) You and someone you love to argue with are still having an interesting discussion. You're about to arrive at a solution to your problem, but there may be another hassle or two before the solution can be implemented. Don't let it get you stressed out. You're just working out the details of your plan.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) The workload intensifies today, but eases as you involve other people. One person in particular can help with a tedious project. You'd rather be off doing something else: with your feet. You'd rather be off doing something else: with your feet. You'd rather be off doing something else: with your feet. You'd rather be off doing something else: with your feet.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 19) Looks like you and your best friend, sweetheart, favourite grandchild or some other dearly beloved are going to be in close proximity again today. You can't spend all your time together, but you can work as much as possible into your schedule. Make it the highest quality you can, because every minute counts.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 20 to February 18) You and your sweetheart would like to stay home today, and the motivation is intense all the way through Friday. If you can take time for sure. It's on romance, and someone you want to get to know better. Fit as much of that into your schedule as possible.

**PISCES:** (February 19 to March 20) Education is again the theme, and it's up to you to make it happen. Don't postpone this. Seize the day and the opportunity, and enrol yourself in a class, even if you do it in the privacy of your own home. That's where you'll most likely want to be tonight, so set it up so you can study there.

Birth Stone of December: Turquoise — Zircon

**JORDAN TIMES**  
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**5684311-5699634**

### CITIGROUP VICE CHAIRMAN ARRIVES IN JORDAN

CITIGROUP Vice Chairman Paul J. Collins arrived in Jordan yesterday on a two-day visit to the Kingdom. Citigroup, which was recently formed as a result of the merger between Citicorp, the parent of Citibank, and Travelers Group is a leading global universal bank, a global consumer financial services company, and a pre-eminent global trading powerhouse. The group is also the holder of some of the industry's most powerful brands: Citibank, Trav-

elers, and Salomon Smith Barney. Citigroup serves 100 million customers in 100 countries.

Collins will visit Citibank's branches and staff in Jordan, and will be accompanied by Citibank Jordan General Manager Suhair Al Ali, call on senior government officials, regulators, bankers, in addition to the bank's customers in Jordan. This senior visit to Jordan, which is the first leg of a regional Middle East visit, reaffirms Citibank's commitment to

its business and staff in Jordan, and in the Middle East.

It is worth noting here that Citibank with presence in Jordan since 1974 has been named Best Foreign Bank in Jordan by Euromoney magazine for two consecutive years, in 1997 and 1998. This is amongst the many other awards accorded to Citibank this year, most notably, Best Bank, Best Bank in the Emerging Markets and Best Bank in the Middle East.

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## Asian Games

### Athletes put finishing touches as minister meets Kingdom's delegation today

By Aileen Bannayan

AMMAN — The Kingdom's delegation to the Dec. 6-20 Asian Games in Bangkok, Thailand, meets with Minister of Culture and Youth Talal Sata'an Wednesday before the first batch of athletes departs Friday.

Only the soccer event has commenced with the first of around 8,000 athletes and officials arriving in Bangkok to join 41 nations at the last sporting event of the century.

Only Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan will be missing the event, although Asian Olympic officials are trying to persuade the

Saudis to send a token delegation after they declined citing Saudi national celebrations and the start of the holy month of Ramadan.

Jordan's delegation which includes 19 officials and 37 athletes will be competing in 11 sports: athletics, boxing, bowling, gymnastics, judo, karate, shooting, squash, swimming, weightlifting and taekwondo.

The Kingdom will be aiming to win its first Asian gold and has high hopes to do so through taekwondo, and boxing.

Jordan has won three silver and five bronze medals — all in taek-

wondo — in its past two participations in the Seoul 86 and Hiroshima 94 Games.

The Kingdom's taekwondo team arrives in Bangkok Thursday after concluding a ten-day training camp in Chinese Taipei.

The athletics team meanwhile has a joint training competition against the Qatari team in Doha Wednesday to conclude their training camp before returning home Thursday.

Officials have underlined that the Asian Games is one of the most valuable chances to assess teams prior to the Pan-Arab Games that will be held in Amman Aug. 15-31,

1999.

Jordan's delegation includes several Pan-Arab Games medal winners headed by Mohammad Abu Khadijeh, one of the country's leading boxers in addition to teammates Basel Hindawi and Ayman Nadi; judo's Musa Khalaf, swimmer Hana Majaj; weightlifter Ayed Khawaldeh.

In athletics, high jumper Fakhreddin Fuad and Tareq Najjar; Butheina Mahsiri in karate; taekwondo's Hussein Taleh; taekwondo's Mohammad Abul Ruz, Ibrahim Aqel, Zaha Talhouni, Nancy Hindi, and Ahlam Bino.

## Asian Games battle venue, health scares

BANGKOK (AFP) — Asian Games organisers on Tuesday battled a health scare and warnings over the state of key facilities as they raced against the clock ahead of Sunday's opening.

The first of around 8,000 athletes and officials started arriving in the Games village to hear of concerns over the football and swimming venues.

As delegations from Japan, Iran, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Uzbekistan and Cambodia entered the village, the Thai authorities ordered emergency repairs to the main pitch for the Asian Games football at the Suphachalasai Stadium after it was condemned by Asia's top soccer official.

"I am contacting the director general of the physical education department who owns this stadium to improve it urgently," Thai deputy prime minister Bhichai Rattakul told reporters.

Bhichai, chairman of the Bangkok Asian Games Organising Committee (BAGOC), accepted the pitch was not up to standard but renewed a guarantee that every playing surface would be ready for upcoming matches.

es.

Though the 41-nation Games will get a gala start Sunday in front of King Bhumibol Adulyadej and a host of international dignitaries, the football kicked off Monday.

After watching Oman hammer Hong Kong 6-0 in the opening match, Asian Football Confederation (AFC) general secretary Peter Velappan said the Suphachalasai pitch was uneven and did not meet international standards. Players and coaches also complained.

"The old pitch was more or less okay for soccer but the new one is very bad," Velappan was quoted as saying by the Bangkok Post.

He insisted matches would have to be switched if action was not taken. Velappan said he had warned organisers of the pitch problems six months ago.

Thousands of insects, meanwhile, have taken over the main swimming pool, again forcing emergency action.

The \$38 million complex, which was finished in January, is open air, letting in mosquitoes and various other bugs attracted by the water and the lights.

"Thousands of dead insects of all kinds have been found on the surface of the pool," confessed Major General Kamol Saen-issara, secretary of the Swimming Association of Thailand.

"It would be most unpleasant for the swimmers — especially the women," he said.

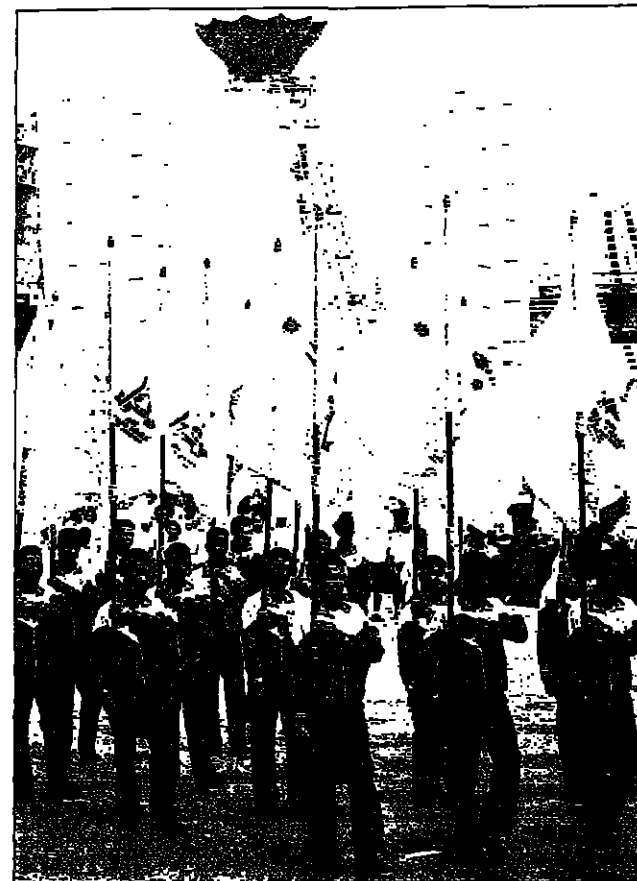
"For Thai men it might not be a serious problem but I am sure it would make the foreigners' hair stand on end."

Organisers have failed to eradicate the problem despite seeking the help of the Thai health authorities. Swarms of insects invade each evening — exactly the time when the swimming finals are to be held.

Kamol said organisers were considering seeking help from insect experts after the organisers own advisers suggested using poisonous insecticide.

"That would affect the swimmers ... we will not use any poisonous substances," he assured. The swimming starts Monday.

The health alarm was sounded after scores of hotel workers were banned from touching food when health inspectors found they were suffering from various diseases.



Thai soldiers carry flags past the torch cauldron of the 13th Asian Games at Bangkok's Rajamangala National Stadium Dec. 1 during a rehearsal of the Games' opening ceremony. The opening ceremony for the 13th Asian Games is scheduled for 6 December (AFP photo)

With thousands of tourists expected in the capital, the public health authority launched spot checks on hotels, street vendors and restaurants.

They discovered that the level of contamination was 16

per cent above normal. They found that more than 10 per cent of the 1,050 hotel staff checked had various diseases and were stopped from handling food, said Bangkok environmental health director Chakrabort Jindarat.

## 49ers win but lose defensive star

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Steve Young threw two touchdown passes and Garrison Hearst ran for 166 yards and another touchdown in a 31-7 American football rout of the New York Giants here on Monday.

But the victory was darkened by a season-ending injury to star defensive tackle Bryant Young, who suffered a broken right leg when hit by the helmet of teammate Ken Norton with seven minutes remaining.

"It was kind of sombre in the locker room," said Terrell Owens, who turned a short completion into a 79-yard touchdown play to equalise for the 49ers at 7-7 in the first quarter.

Young was taken off on a stretcher, his leg immobilised.

San Francisco rose to 9-3 and stayed one game behind NFC West division leader Atlanta. But unless they can catch the Falcons for the title, the 49ers are looking at fighting Green Bay for hosting rights in a first-round game rather than a bye.

The Giants fell to 4-8, two games behind Arizona for the final NFC playoff berth.

The 49ers rolled up 467 yards of offence, but only 300 came in the first half and it took a one-yard Young touchdown toss to Irv Smith 26 seconds before half-time to put the 49ers ahead 14-7 at the break.

The victory was San Francisco's club-record 15th in a row at home.

Hearst boosted his season rushing total to a career-high 1,105 yards and concluded the romp with a 70-yard touchdown run with 3:09 to play.



## LOCAL SPORTS SCENE

### Princess Alia commends equestrian team's efforts

AMMAN — HRH Princess Alia, president of the Royal Equestrian Federation, Tuesday wished success to the national team, which will participate in the upcoming World Endurance Championship in the United Arab Emirates. Princess Alia praised the team's efforts in preparation for the event which will group 41 countries.

### Charlotte Eagles arrives

AMMAN — The Charlotte Eagles Soccer Club is expected to arrive in Amman Wednesday on an official one-week visit at the invitation of Al Qadissiah Sports Club. During its visit, the American team will play matches with Al Qadissiah soccer team at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, at Amman International Stadium and with the Greater Amman Municipality soccer team at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6 at Amman International Stadium and with a soccer team in Aqaba on Dec. 8. Among its other activities in Jordan, the Charlotte Eagles Soccer Club will also be holding a youth sports day at the Amman Baptist School at 10:00 a.m. on Dec. 4. The club will also visit a number of tourist sites in Jordan.

### Volleyball team to play Iraqis

AMMAN — The Jordan Volleyball Federation recently reshuffled the national team to include Majed Bis, Sharif Abdullah, Mohammad Khayleh, Hassan Hassonah, Khaldoun Awad, Fahmi Iskandarani, Jamil Abu Rub, Ra'f Zeh, Abdullah Bani Issa, Mohammad Hadeeb, Wisam Matar, Nidal Mahmoud, Bilal Fawaz, Shaher Mahmoud. In its latest meeting, the federation also decided to resume the national team's training under the supervision of Ibrahim Philip. The federation set Dec. 15, 16, 18 for the national women's team to meet its Iraqi counterpart.

### Samhuri wins chess bronze

AMMAN — Jordan's Ahmad Samhuri won the bronze medal in the junior category of the 23rd Arab Chess Championship, which was concluded recently in Qatar. Samir Hismawi achieved the fifth place in the under-20 category. Egypt, Yemen, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Morocco, Palestine and Bahrain took part in the event. Meanwhile, Royal Chess Federation Vice-President Faysal Samhuri said the Arab Chess Federation has agreed to include three junior championships on the agenda of the Pan-Arab Games, which will be held in Amman 1999.

Compiled by Ahmad Khathib

## Kuwait crushes Mongolia, 11-0; Japan, Iran, Tajikistan win

BANGKOK (AP) — Kuwait blew away lowly Mongolia with 11 unanswered goals Tuesday in a preliminary soccer match in the 13th Asian Games, while Japan, a favourite for a gold medal, thrashed Nepal, 5-0.

Tajikistan squashed tiny Maldives, 3-0. Iran, fielding one of the strongest sides in

the competition, knocked over Kazakhstan, 2-0, in what proved the day's closest match.

The results leave the winners virtually certain to advance from their groups from the 23 initial teams. Most of the losers were among the weakest sides in the competition.

For the hapless Mongols, who had no answer to the speed and skill of their opponents, it was over long before the first half ended at 7-0. They managed only four shots on goal.

In a game played in the southern city of Trang, Japan, the favourites in Group C, led Nepal 3-0 in the first half on

an opening goal by Shinji Ono, followed by a pair from Kenji Fukuda.

Maldives, playing in Group D in Suphan Buri, avoided humiliation. They held Tajikistan to one goal in the first half, a 35-meter smash by captain Takhirjon Muminov. Zokir Berdikulov knocked in two more after the

half.

Iran was fairly evenly matched but caught Kazakhstan by surprise in the opening seconds for a one-goal lead. Iran could have scored four more — and eventually netted one in the second half — but Kazakhstan also failed to finish several chances.

### Under the patronage of His Excellency MSGR SELIM SAYEGH

You are cordially invited to the opening of the Christmas festival which will take place on Wednesday 2nd of Dec. at six o'clock in the afternoon at college DE LA SALLE (AL-FRERES SCHOOL) - JABAL AL-HUSSEIN.

This bazaar is for the benefit of "OUR LADY OF PEACE" Center which will serve the handicapped and many other needy sectors in the Jordanian society.

The scouts will present enjoyable entertainment shows and games. The bazaar will provide miscellaneous items for the Xmas season

The bazaar welcomes visitors on:-

Thursday 3rd Dec. and Saturday 5th Dec. from 3 p.m. until 10 p.m.  
Friday 4th Dec. and Sunday 6th Dec. from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Your presence gives us happiness and joy.

The invitation is open

### AMERICAN WOMEN OF AMMAN (AWA)

#### CHRISTMAS CHARITY BAZAAR

(December 4th 1998)

11 AM to 4 PM at MARRIOTT HOTEL

- ★ Grand Raffle - With over 50 Prizes
- ★ Christmas Articles
  - Tree Skirts
  - Hand Made Dolls & Animals
  - Christmas Tree Decorations
  - Tree Top Angels
- ★ Photos with Santa Claus
  - Home Made Baked Goods
  - Fruit Cakes & Preserves
- ★ Country Crafts, Home Made Scented Candles
- ★ Kids Table, Games For Kids & Much Much More

SPONSORED BY THE AMMAN MARRIOTT HOTEL  
THE AMMAN MARRIOTT HOTEL WISHES ALL OF YOU  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR  
ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO JORDANIAN CHARITIES



German former World No. 1 Steffi Graf (L) poses with Russian Anna Kournikova in the stands of the Cologne events centre, prior to a generational tennis exhibition match. Graf recently made an impressive comeback, winning two tournaments and reaching the semi-final of the Womens' Masters in New York (AFP photo)

## China's CCTV joins forces with AFP on Asian Games website

BEIJING (AFP) — State-run China Central Television (CCTV) is to provide real-time television coverage of the Asian Games on an AFP website, officials said Tuesday. CCTV would broadcast real-time sound and video of the Games over the Internet alongside on-line coverage of the Asian Games in English and Chinese, a spokesman told a news conference in Beijing.

China's largest service provider, the China Internet Corporation (CIC), teamed up with AFP on November 10 to provide comprehensive reports on the Asian Games in English and Chinese from AFP's team of writers and photographers at the event.

## All-Star Game shifted to Atlanta

NEW YORK (AFP) — Major League Baseball moved the 2000 All-Star Game from Miami to Atlanta amid reports the new owners of the Florida Marlins no longer want to host the game as they seek a new stadium.

After earlier denials by Marlins and Major League officials, National League officials released a statement announcing the move but making no reference to the fact the game had ever been awarded to Miami.

The Marlins won the World Series in 1997 but owner Wayne Huizenga slashed the payroll and the team plumped to the bottom of baseball at 54-108.

The team was sold to commodities trader John Henry for \$158 million in a deal that owners must still approve. Henry wants taxpayer financing of a new stadium for the club and reportedly did not want to host the game's showcase event in a stadium he is trying to show is sub-standard.

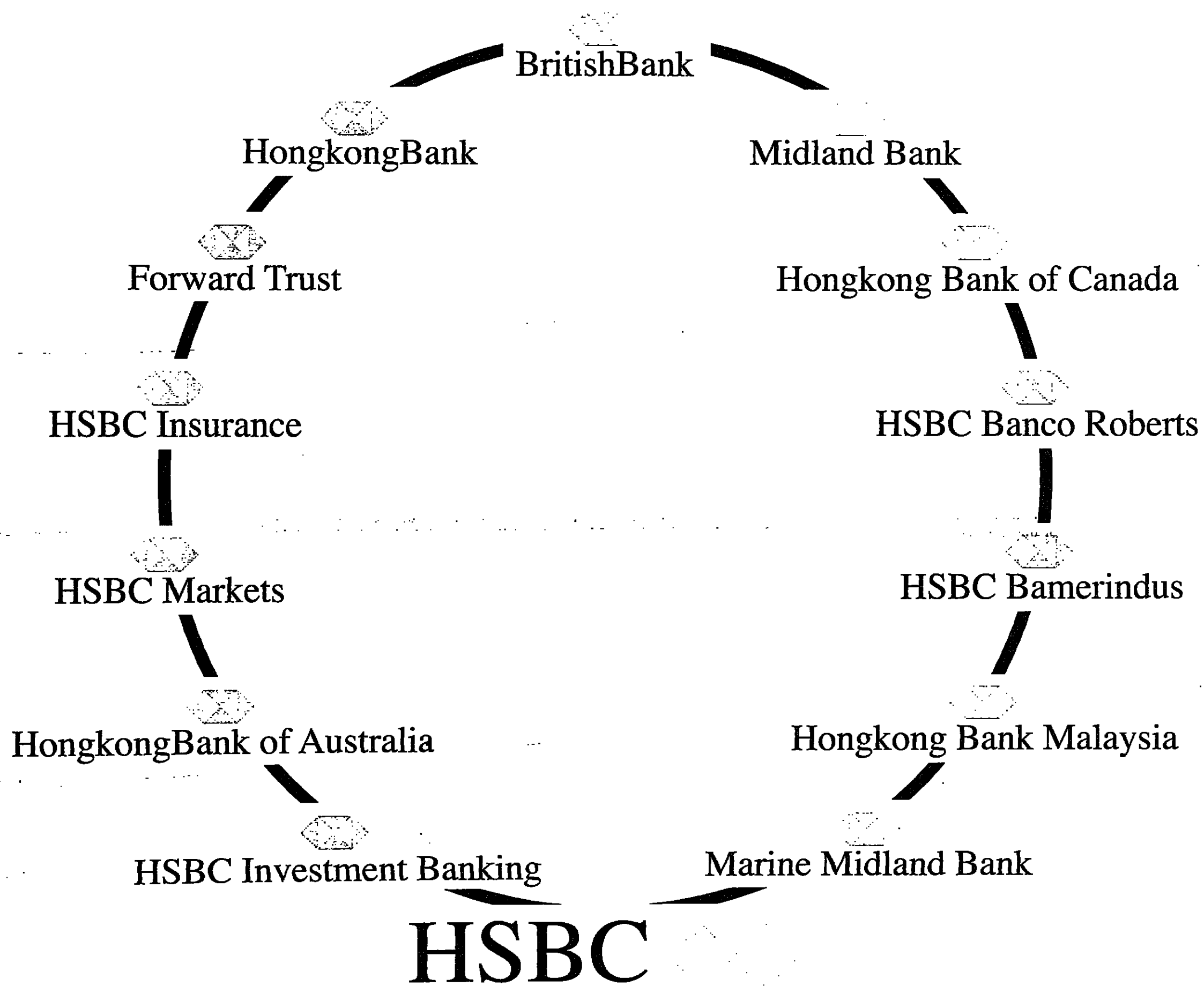
The game will be played at the former 1996 Olympic Stadium, which was converted into a baseball park for the Atlanta Braves. The Braves have not hosted the showdown of National and American league stars since 1972.

CINEMA	TEL: 463-4144	CINEMA	TEL: 463-4144	CINEMA	TEL: 369-2338	CINEMA	TEL: 367-7420	CINEMA	TEL: 593-4793	CINEMA	TEL: 593-4793	Risham Yanes Theatre	TEL: 4625155
PHILADELPHIA '1'		PHILADELPHIA '2'		PLAZA		CONCORD		GALLERIA 1		GALLERIA 2			
Richard Gere .. in		Jeff Bridges .. in		Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in		CONCORD '1' John Travolta & Emma Thompson .. in		ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Antonio Banderas .. in		ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in			
RED CORNER		WHITE SQUALL		SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY		PRIMARY COLORS Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30		THE MASK OF ZORRO Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Watch out for the new play	
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '2' FRENCH KISS Shows: 3:30, 5:30							

Listings for films and showing times as received by cinemas and their advertising agencies.



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Why? Because as one of the world's most successful financial services organisations we would like you to understand us better.

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not yet know just how much we can do for you around the corner and around the world.

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Talk to us and see. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

## Israel reneges on proposals on Gaza port, passageways

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon has reneged on preliminary agreements with the Palestinians concerning the opening of a seaport in Gaza and a safe passage corridor linking Gaza and the West Bank, an Israeli official said Tuesday.

Sharon notably backtracked on an agreement reached by lower level Israeli negotiators and the Palestinians that cargo destined for the Gaza port be searched by Israeli security agents inside the port facility, a close aide to the minister told AFP.

Instead Sharon is insisting all cargo be searched for possible weapons or other contraband inside the Israeli-controlled Jewish settlement of Netzarim, located inside the Gaza Strip, he said.

"Israel wants to ensure that the Palestinians will not smuggle weapons through the port," he said.

Sharon also rejected a draft agreement concerning the location of the terminal of one of two safe-passage corridors that will permit Palestinians to travel freely through Israeli territory between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The placement of a southern corridor between Gaza and the West Bank city of Hebron has already been agreed and the passageway should have opened last month under the terms of the Wye River peace accord signed by the two sides Oct. 23 in Washington.

But negotiators have been unable to agree on the terminal for the northern passage which will lead to the region of Ramallah north of Jerusalem.

Sharon wants the northern terminal placed in Beitunia, a town just outside Ramallah, which is already under Palestinian control.

Fearing that Israel would use the location of the ter-

ritorial to set the final border of the Palestinian entity in the West Bank, the Palestinians want the terminal placed closer to the 1967 frontier with Israel.

Both the Gaza port and the two safe passageways should have been opened some two years ago under the Oslo peace accords, but negotiations were frozen after the right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power in mid-1996.

In the Wye River land-for-security accord signed in October, Israel reaffirmed its commitment to both projects.

The agreement obliged both sides to make "a best effort" to open the southern safe passageway within a week of the agreement's application — on Nov. 3.

The accord called for a committee to be formed to accelerate negotiations on the port, but the panel has yet to meet.

## Shin Bet interrogator admits using 'physical pressure' on prisoner

TEL AVIV (AP) — Confirming what human rights organisations and Palestinian detainees have long contended, an Israeli security interrogator has admitted in court testimony that he used physical pressure to extract information from a Palestinian suspect.

Said Zorub, accused of membership in Hamas and assisting in a 1995 suicide bombing, has since retracted the confession he gave to the Shin Bet, Israel's internal security agency, claiming it was made under duress.

In a special Israeli military court hearing held Oct. 20 to discuss the validity of the confession, the interrogator, identified in court transcripts only as "N," said he and others tied, twisted and kept Zorub hooded for several hours at a time.

On six separate occasions over three days in April 1997, Zorub was forced to stand, arms stretched above his head and handcuffed to an anchor above him, for as long as three

hours.

"This method is intended to further the revelation of the essential information which the subject does not wish to divulge," N said in his testimony. Transcripts of the hearing were made available to The Associated Press Monday.

During the interrogations, Zorub confessed to involvement in Hamas activities. His trial is still in progress and it was unclear how the court would rule regarding the validity of the confession.

At other points during the 21 days Zorub spent at an unnamed Shin Bet facility, N said Zorub was seated on a low chair slanted forward, with his hands tied behind his back. N said interrogators would tighten "the handcuffs as far as possible around the defendant's wrists."

He also said that investigators put a hood over Zorub, forced him to crouch on the ground for hour-long stretches and blasted loud music at him.

## 'Germany or Italy should try Ocalan'

(Continued from page 1)

He congratulated Italy for resisting pressure from Turkey for his extradition, and praised the European Union for supporting Rome's stance.

Ocalan, who was arrested on international warrants from Turkey and Germany after arriving in Italy on a flight from Russia, said he would be prepared to stand trial in either a German, international or European court.

But Germany has refused to ask for his extradition, because it fears a violent reaction from the many Turks and Kurds resident in Germany if Ocalan is sent there.

The newspaper said Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini and his Russian counterpart Igor Ivanov raised the prospect in their meeting on Monday of sending Ocalan to Greece, Armenia, Libya or Cyprus.

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## Sudan slams U.N. envoy

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail has criticised Sir Kieran Prendergast, the U.N. under-secretary-general for political affairs, for meeting secretly with the opposition here, press reports said Tuesday.

Khartoum newspapers quoted Ismail as saying that his government "would not have refused arranging a meeting of the U.N. envoy with internal opposition representatives... but he preferred to ignore diplomatic norms and hold an unscheduled meeting with the opposition without permission or knowledge of the government."

A coalition of Sudanese opposition parties, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), handed Prendergast, who visited Khartoum in early November, a memorandum appealing to the United Nations to help resolve the political crisis in Sudan as well as the rebellion in the south of the country.

The NDA said recent presidential and parliamentary elections were "a farce" and that a new constitution and subsequent legislation had been "designed to strengthen the NIF's [National Islamic Front] hold on power."

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MARTYRS DAY: Iraqi guards march in Baghdad on Tuesday during a ceremony to mark martyrs day of Iraqi soldiers who were killed during the 1980-1988 war against Iran and the 1990-1991 invasion of Kuwait (AFP photo)

## Iraq says it will not bother to jam broadcasts by U.S.-backed radio

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi authorities say they are so unconcerned about new U.S.-sponsored broadcasts aimed at undermining President Saddam Hussein that they won't even bother to jam the transmissions.

Government media officials said the decision was made because Iraqis, already inundated by radio stations hostile to Baghdad's leaders, are unlikely to pay attention to Radio Free Iraq. The broadcasts are being transmitted from the Czech Republic.

Radio Free Iraq entered the crowded market four weeks ago, operating with a \$5 million budget from Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty, known for broadcasts into eastern Europe during Soviet control. The U.S.-funded operation in

Iraqis can hear broadcasts opposed to Saddam's government from neighbouring Iran, Kuwait and Syria as well as from northern Iraq, which is under the control of Kurdish rebels.

In addition, the British Broadcasting Corp., Voice of America, the French-sponsored Radio Monte Carlo and Israel Radio have Arabic-language broadcasts that are heard throughout the Middle East.

Radio Free Iraq entered the crowded market four weeks ago, operating with a \$5 million budget from Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty, known for broadcasts into eastern Europe during Soviet control. The U.S.-funded operation in

Prague also started broadcasts at the same time to Iran, which receives a host of Farsi-language broadcasts from around the globe and several programmes transmitted by the Iranian opposition based in Iraq.

In Baghdad, a few Iraqis said they have heard Radio Free Iraq's Arabic-language news and commentary, but the broadcasts don't seem to have generated great interest.

While Mahdi called the station a "wretched voice," others say it is relatively tame, featuring announcers reading reports from international news agencies. From their own newspapers and radio and television stations, Iraqis get a stream of

pro-government views. But they also can hear wild diatribes against Saddam on opposition stations.

From Iran, the Voice of Islamic Revolution in Iraq regularly accuses the Baghdad government of being a puppet of the United States in general and the CIA in particular.

From northern Iraq comes the Voice of the Iraqi People, which has been telling Iraqis for the past eight years that the days of the Baghdad government are numbered.

Another opposition station, the Voice of the Armed Forces and Internal Security, usually broadcasts in code. "From X to C. Move position and get in touch with S," is typical of its

## Levy's return to government hits snag

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu struggled Tuesday to calm a revolt in his right-wing Likud bloc over plans to bring former Foreign Minister David Levy and his centrist Geshet Party back into government.

Senior Likud figures, including cabinet ministers, have strongly opposed a tentative offer made by Netanyahu last week to give Levy a senior cabinet spot and bring 400 to 500 of his Geshet Party activists into the Likud central committee.

The deal to merge the two parties would have strengthened Netanyahu's fragile coalition by adding at least three deputies to its minimal 61-seat majority in the 120-member parliament.

But Likud stalwarts objected to giving Levy's backers a large chunk of the 2,700 seats in the party's central committee, the body which notably draws up the group's slate of candidates for elections.

Netanyahu reiterated his determination Tuesday to bring Levy back into the cabinet and said he would meet with him soon to find a formula acceptable to both their parties.

Levy resigned from government in January, launching an angry broadside against Netanyahu, who he accused of stalling in peace negotiations with the Palestinians and neglecting Israel's poor with his ultra-liberal economic policies. Levy's return to the fold

was made possible, and for Netanyahu necessary, after the government finally signed a new peace accord with the Palestinians in October.

The agreement, which requires Israel to cede more West Bank land, infuriated the nationalist hard-liners in the governing coalition and effectively wiped out Netanyahu's parliamentary majority.

Under the agreement drafted last week, Levy was to become national infrastructure minister, a big budget post involved in a host of crucial economic decisions.

That appointment was widely welcomed by most coalition parties.

But Likud leaders balked at the cost of bringing Levy's Geshet grouping into their

party, fearing that the arrival of up to 500 Geshet militants in the central committee would undercut the power of their own factions.

Netanyahu subsequently sought to lower the number of Geshet members who would join the central committee once the parties merged, prompting key Geshet figures, including Levy's own brother Maxime, to threaten to back out of the deal.

Newspapers Tuesday quoted sources close to the negotiations as saying a compromise formula was being worked out under which Levy would return to the cabinet and his allies in parliament would vote with the governing coalition but a formal merger of Geshet and Likud would be put off to the future.

## PNA denies misuse of European housing funds

(Continued from page 1)

"We don't want donors to use this (worry over corruption) as an excuse not to provide aid," he said.

Albright on Monday announced that international pledges of aid to the Palestinians surpassed \$3 billion at a donors' conference held in Washington Monday.

"It appears that delegations pledged more than three billion today," Albright said.

The aid is to be distributed over the next five years.

The total amount will include a \$900-million contribution from the United

States, composed of one-time assistance of \$400 million in 1999 and \$100 million per year for the next five years, according to an official.

The European Union has pledged some \$460 million over the next five years, Austrian Finance Minister Wolfgang Schuessel said here Monday.

"I am pleased to be able to announce that the European Union (EU) intends to commit some 400 million (European Currency Units (\$460 million)) from the Community budget over the next five years," he said in remarks prepared for the conference.

Austria currently holds the rotating presidency of the EU, which in 1993 pledged \$421.5 million over five years to support the Oslo peace accord signed that year by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The EU was one of some 50 countries and multilateral institutions represented at Monday's one-day gathering here aimed at boosting financial aid to Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip from 1999 to 2003.

Total international aid pledged in 1993 was \$2.3 billion, of which about \$2.1 bil-

lion has so far been disbursed.

Other countries who on Monday pledged money to assist Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip include Japan, \$200 million, Saudi Arabia, \$100 million, Kuwait, \$80 million and Canada, \$30 million, officials said.

President Bill Clinton opened the conference by saying the Mideast peace effort was on track and pledging additional U.S. aid for Gaza and the West Bank, despite exchanged statements between Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Arafat accused Israel of undermining the Palestinian economy and said anew that he hopes to establish an independent state.

Arafat spoke to the U.S.-arranged international conference designed to solicit pledges of assistance to the Palestinian economy.

Opening the conference, Clinton said his administration planned to boost U.S. aid by \$400 million while extending a current \$100-million-a-year assistance programme for five more years.

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## Takriti back home

(Continued from page 1)

"Everyone knows that America can start fires wherever it wants, but can it put the fires out whenever it wants? And can it keep the fires where it wants and stop them spreading?" he asked.

Military strikes against Iraq were only narrowly averted in mid-November when Saddam, in a last-minute decision, resumed cooperation with U.N. disarmament inspectors.

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan warned Iraq Monday it will have to face up "very

quickly" to a military strike by the United States and Britain if a new crisis breaks out over U.N. weapons inspections.

U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in 1990 cannot be lifted until the arms inspectors certify that Iraq has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles.

Saddam Hussein has three half-brothers — Barzan, Waiban and Sabawi — from his mother's remarriage to the Iraqi president's paternal uncle following her first husband's death. A fourth half-brother, Dham, died in the 1980s.

## Lahoud begins new consultations

(Continued from page 1)

Central bank officials on Monday tried to calm fears about a run on the Lebanese pound by announcing that the bank was ready to intervene with its foreign currency reserves, the state-run National News Agency reported. It added that the money markets remained stable.

In the initial round, parliament members gave Hariri a majority. But that was far short of the near-unanimous backing he received in three previous mandates, since

1992. Hariri, 53, a business tycoon who launched Lebanon's multibillion dollar reconstruction from the devastation of the 1975-90 civil war, said Monday in an interview with CNN that he was no longer a candidate.

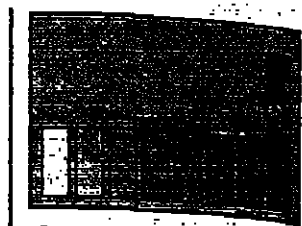
He demanded that Lahoud admit that he acted unconstitutionally by allowing 31 parliament deputies to authorise him to name a prime minister instead of naming one themselves.

Lahoud, 62, is an army commander who wants to assert his authority at the

start of his six-year presidential term. Hariri virtually had a free hand in running the country since he became premier six years ago under former President Elias Hrawi.

Several parliament members who had named Hariri as their choice for prime minister were expected to name Hoss in the new round of consultations.

Hoss, 69, a U.S.-educated economist, served four times as prime minister since 1976, including a term in 1988 during the darkest days of Lebanon's civil war.



Couple offer \$16,700 for cat's safe return

LONDON (AFP) — Jeremy the cat has gone missing. The three-year-old padded off two weeks ago and owners David and Linda Horobin are distraught. So distraught, in fact, that they have offered a reward of \$16,700 for Jeremy's safe return to his home in Cheshire, Northwest England. But despite dozens of hopeful calls, there's not a whisker to be seen of the furry Abyssinian, according to the Guardian. "If it means spending that sort of money to get Jeremy back, then that is the all-important issue to us. ... He is part of our lives."

## Zoo staff counsel grieving elephant

SYDNEY (AFP) — Sydney zoo animal handlers are counselling a 41-year-old elephant whose female companion died of a heart attack on Sunday. Burnett's mourning the death of her 43-year-old friend Ramee who died at Sydney's Taronga Zoo after surgery to remove a tumour. Zoo staff have been busy hiding treats for Burnett, who was shown the body to help with the grieving process. The zoo's life sciences general manager, William Melk, said the games of hide-and-seek and the additional attention being showered on Burnett were a form of counselling.

## Insects bug Games swimming pool

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thousands of insects have taken over the Asian Games swimming pool and embarrassed organisers admitted Tuesday it would make some competitors' hair "stand on end." The \$38 million air aquatics complex, which was finished in January, is open air, letting in mosquitoes and various other bugs and insects attracted by the water and the lights. "Thousands of dead insects of all kinds have been found on the surface of the pool," confessed secretary of the Swimming Association of Thailand. "It would be most unpleasant for the swimmers — especially the women," he said.

## Thai elephants paint to save themselves

AYUTTHAYA (R) — Baby elephant Nam Chok grips the brush in his trunk and with a few words of encouragement from his handler, slaps the canvas in front of him with bright blue paint. Nam Chok is among about a dozen Thai elephants learning to paint under a new scheme that its supporters say could ultimately improve the lives of Thailand's revered but struggling national animal. Russian artistic partnership Alex Melamid and Vitaly Komar are hoping to bring images painted by Thailand's elephants to mainstream western art markets under the auspices of the Asian Elephant Art and Conservation Project.

## Owner clings to carjacked vehicle

CHICAGO (R) — The owner of a stolen car held on to the roof as it sped through Chicago streets chased by police, authorities said. Charles Gardner, 35, was spotted holding on to a luggage rack while his 10-year-old Chevrolet Suburban was being "driven recklessly" by a pair of carjackers, police said. The vehicle, allegedly stolen by 17-year-old William Belfor and a 16-year-old accomplice, sped through traffic lights and down alleys, followed by several squad cars. Eventually, the vehicle crashed to a stop, where Gardner fell off and the two teenagers tried to flee.

Norwegian jour in Iraq car

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